

First Published in
1802
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refugees

No. 62,287

THE TIMES

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5 1985

(23p)

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THE TIMES
1785-1985

Tomorrow

Former glories
Restoring the
Palace of
Westminster

Timely advice
Marriage guidance
counselling
gets up to date

Reagan's message
The President's vision
of the United States
in the year 2000

Back to the fray
The unorthodox
Fijian rugby team
returns to Wales

Portfolio

Today's Times Portfolio competition prize is increased to £4,000 because no one won yesterday. Portfolio list, page 24; how to play, information service, back page.

Kabul siege soldier goes back

A Russian soldier who took refuge in the US Embassy in Kabul last Thursday left yesterday at his own volition, despite assurances he could stay, the State Department said. Alexander Sukharnov, aged 19, left the compound with the Soviet ambassador, who gave "an oral understanding he would not be punished".

MP gives up shadow post

Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Knowsley, North, has resigned from the Opposition front bench because of an attempt by the Militant Tendency to oust him from his constituency. Page 2

Whitehall reply

A Government statement is expected shortly in reply to Mr Robert "Tiny" Rowland's allegations of negligence and abuse of power by the Department of Trade and Industry and to office of Fair Trading over the acquisition by the Al Fayed brothers of the House of Fraser, which includes Harrods. Kenneth Fleet, page 21

Government list

Complete list of Government members Page 4

Sakharov call

Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet dissident, spoke by telephone yesterday to relatives in the United States for the first time in six years.

BBC ads poll

There is overwhelming public support for the abolition of the television licence fee and the introduction of advertising on the BBC, according to an opinion poll carried out by MORI for The Times. Spectrum, page 11

Holiday fever

Thousands of sunseekers besieged travel agents' offices to buy cheap holidays. Thomson Holidays reported taking £10 million in bookings, a record for a day's business. Agents besieged, page 3

THE TIMES
(SPECIAL REPORT)

Beautiful Britain: How the Keep Britain Tidy Group is making the public and government aware of the environment. Pages 17-19

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Letters: On Channel link, from Mr C Brown, and others; audience rights, from Mr Cyril Smith, MP
Leading articles: Argentine elections; Sinn Féin; Tin and the City
Features, pages 11-14
Reagan's Philippine fears; the first year of Rajiv Gandhi; Miles Kingston's double-think
Spectrum: what viewers really think of television. Fashion: Bloomsbury style
Obituary, page 16
Phil Silvers, Sir Evan Jenkins

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Bitter Soviet press attack casts gloom on summit

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

A shadow was cast over final preparations here yesterday for the Geneva summit with the publication of a sharply critical account of the historic interview granted last week by President Reagan to four Soviet journalists flown to the White House from Moscow.

The lengthy interview and accompanying commentary accusing the president of attempting to distort Soviet policy and blame Moscow for increasing world tension coincided with the opening of talks between Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

The sour tone of the presentation of the interview in *Izvestia* was seen by diplomats as underlying the problems facing the two leaders when they meet on November 19.

The interview was the first granted by an American president to Soviet newsmen since the Kennedy era. Even before the appearance of the commentary, Soviet sources had expressed growing annoyance at what they allege is a blatant effort by the US to divert the subject matter of the summit from arms control to regional issues.

Writing in a bitter commentary alongside the interview, the Soviet journalists said: "His answers show distinctly a vision of the world through the eyes of an American conservative who is prepared to forget or not to notice obvious facts that are known to all if they fail to correspond to his views, or expose the imperialist nature of his activities."

"The president makes propaganda for American proposals, covered in archive dust, for strategic arms reduction, but forgets to say that they are one-sided and give unilateral advantages to the forces of his country, while providing for under-cutting the most important...

What Reagan said to Russian journalists

Moscow (Reuters) - The following are extracts from the text of the interview given by President Reagan to the four journalists, as issued by the US Embassy in Moscow:

"I fully agree that my meeting with the General-Secretary Gorbachev has special significance, and I am personally looking forward to it very much. I sincerely hope that we will be able to put relations between our two countries on a safer and more secure course."

"One thing that has created enormous tension in US-Soviet relations over the last few years has been attempts to settle problems around the world by using military force. The resort to arms, whether it be in Afghanistan, Cambodia or in Africa, has contributed nothing to the prospects for peace or for the resolution of indigenous problems..."

"We have made literally 40 to 50 proposals to improve our working relationship, expand communication and build confidence. For example, we have proposed an agreement to co-operate on the peaceful use of space... we have also made several proposals for more direct contact by our military people..."

"But most of all, ordinary people in both countries should have more contact, particularly our young people... I'd like to see us sending thousands of students to each other's country every year, to get to know each other, to learn from each other and, most of all, to come to understand that, even with our different philosophies, we can and must live in peace..."

"I think that my meeting with General-Secretary Gorbachev can start us on the road toward the goal our countries have set: the radical reduction of nuclear weapons and steps to achieve their complete elimination..."

"...that there would be no misunderstandings about our research programme on new defensive systems which is being carried out in full compliance with the ABM Treaty, I sent the director of our strategic defence research programme to Geneva to brief Soviet negotiators. Unfortunately, we have not had a comparable description of your research in this area, which we know is long-standing and quite extensive..."

"When we were the only country with nuclear weapons, we proposed giving them up altogether to an international authority, so that no country would have such destructive power at its disposal. What a pity this idea was not accepted."

"Let me add something that may not be widely known in the Soviet Union. In agreement with the Nato countries, the United States since 1979 has removed from Europe well over 1,000 nuclear warheads. When...

Continued on back page, col 6



Mr Shultz (left) being greeted at the airport by Mr Shevardnadze. They later had eight hours of talks.

Cape paper defies law with ANC interview

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

One of South Africa's oldest and most respected newspapers, the *Cape Times*, yesterday threw down an unprecedented public challenge to the Government by printing over a full page the verbatim text of an interview between its editor and Mr Oliver Tambo, President of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC).

It is a serious offence in South African law to quote a "banned" person, which Mr Tambo is. It is also an offence to give publicity to a prohibited organization which could be construed as promoting its aims.

The editor of the *Cape Times*, Mr Tony Heard, who interviewed Mr Tambo last Wednesday at the home the ANC leader owns in Muswell Hill, London, told me he had been encouraged to risk prosecution, and a possible jail sentence, by "the essentially moderate nature" of Mr Tambo's views. Their publication, he felt, would be "a contribution to what could become a process for peace."

"I feel very strongly that if top business and political leaders are having access to the ANC and yet its views are not even known locally, it is a ludicrous situation, and I felt that something had to be done about that."

Mr Heard was referring to recent talks which the ANC has held in Lusaka with South African businessmen and leaders of the Progressive Federal Party, the liberal anti-apartheid opposition in the white chamber of South African's segregated parliament.

Many white South Africans probably will have been surprised by the generally reasoned and moderate tone of Mr Tambo's interview. He accepts a role for private enterprise in South Africa, wants whites to play a full part in a future democratic South Africa, denies that the ANC is controlled by its Communist Party ally, and says talks could begin with the Government even while violence is going on.

In a leading article the *Cape Times* attacked the Government's new curbs on television, radio and the press as "an act of folly" and "a brutal assault" on freedom of the press. Comment in other English-language newspapers yesterday was also highly critical.

WASHINGTON - Representatives of US news organizations have expressed deep concern over South Africa's restrictions on coverage of unrest in the country. Photograph, page 7

Kinnock pledge to block purge of rebel miners

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock will resist any attempt to expel members of the breakaway Union of Democratic Miners from the Labour Party.

The party rule-book states that each individual member of the party must "if eligible, be a member of a trade union affiliated to the Trades Union Congress or recognized by the general council of the TUC as a bona fide trade union".

Labour MPs in Nottinghamshire fear that the National Union of Mineworkers leadership will attempt to use the rule to wreak political vengeance on the rebel union's membership.

Mr Kinnock said in a BBC radio interview last night: "We have had any number of instances, running into dozens, literally, within the last 12 years of unions being outside the TUC and that not having any effect whatsoever on people's entitlement to be individual members of the party."

"I think people would be foolish if they were to get too upset about that side of the question because we are going to have to examine it. But we are proceeding with a degree of calm about the position of individual members."

A large number of unions were suspended, and even expelled, from the TUC in 1972 and 1973 because they complied with registration procedures introduced under the Industrial Relations Act.

Unions affected included the National Union of Seamen, the Confederation of Health Service Employees and the National Graphical Association. It was said that 370,000 union members were involved, but not one union member was expelled from the party.

But Mr Kinnock said last night that there was no question of the breakaway union being affiliated to the party. Senior Labour sources confirmed that any moves to invoke the rule-book against individuals would be strongly contested by the leader.

Certainly, the point is not lost on Mr Kinnock that any expulsions would rebound against the party not only in Nottinghamshire, but with the electorate at large.

One source said last night that any "maverick" attempt to launch what was described as a "witch-hunt" against UDM members would therefore be obstructed by Mr Kinnock, and it was pointed out that the leader's in-built majority on the party's national executive committee would ensure that any purge proceedings were driven into the ground.

Belgian terror alert as two die in raid

From Richard Owen, Brussels

Two people died and several were injured yesterday in a series of violent incidents in Belgium bearing the hallmark of the Belgian anarchist group, Communist Fighting Cells, CCC.

There were huge explosions at two leading banks, one in the centre of Brussels and one at Charleroi.

In an earlier incident two postal workers in their early thirties, one a woman, were killed at Verviers when three armed men ambushed a postal van carrying 7m Belgian francs (about £100,000), and riddled an accompanying police van with bullets, taking one of the two policemen hostage.

Police said that the gunmen stopped the van and dynamited it with the postal workers and the driver still inside. The driver was badly hurt. The gunmen's car was found abandoned on the road to Liege, and the kidnapped policeman was also later found unharmed.

The CCC admitted bombing the Société Générale de Banque at Charleroi with a suitcase bomb chained to a pillar. The building had been evacuated after a warning. Belgian police said another explosion at the Banque Bruxelles Lambert in Brussels had the stamp of the group. The assailants parked a booby-trapped van outside the bank and broadcast a tape-recorded warning by loudspeaker. They shot and wounded a security guard while fleeing. Photograph, page 5

Russian baby given free BA flight for operation

In a rare and politically sensitive humanitarian gesture a Russian baby with a serious heart ailment left Moscow last night to fly free of charge to London at British Airways' expense for an emergency operation (Christopher Walker writes).

The decision to fly Yuri Sobol and his mother was taken after the intervention of the airline's chairman, Lord King, of Warrnaby.

The cost of the operation and an estimated 10 day stay in the

hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, are to be met by the Department of Health and Social Security. Unofficially, the bill is put at more than £7,000.

The difficulties the baby's parents faced were highlighted in an article in *The Times* in September reporting that doctors in Moscow did not have the skills for the operation, but British doctors did. The Soviet health ministry gave permission for the baby and his mother to fly to London but the parents could not afford the flight.

The decision to fly Yuri Sobol and his mother was taken after the intervention of the airline's chairman, Lord King, of Warrnaby.

The cost of the operation and an estimated 10 day stay in the

Cyprus spy case men to get their back pay

The seven servicemen who were acquitted last month in the Cyprus spy trial will receive back-pay for the period that they were in custody (Our Defence Correspondent writes). It is understood that Senior Aircraftman Geoffrey Jones is entitled to about £10,000, before deduction of tax and other items, with the others probably being entitled to lesser amounts.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Defence said they were following normal procedure. It was usual for servicemen not to be paid while held in custody.

Continued on back page, col 4

LEN DEIGHTON

The espionage trilogy of the decade is complete
GAME SET & MATCH

LEN DEIGHTON
LONDON MATCH

LEN DEIGHTON
THE THIRD DAY

LEN DEIGHTON
THE GREAT ESCAPE

Hutchinson £9.95
Greene & Parnham £2.50
Greene & Parnham £2.50

Payments to athletes stay a secret

By Robin Young

The international shot-putter, Mr Mike Winch, yesterday failed in a High Court bid to oblige the Amateur Athletic Association to reveal details of payments to athletes.

The High Court writ was the latest attempt by the International Athletes' Club to make the AAA release details of financial contracts which are claimed to be worth million of pounds to supposedly "amateur" athletes.

Last week Mr Derek Johnson, another IAC official, leaked the fact that Miss Zola Budd had been paid £90,000 to race against Mary Slaney. Slaney won easily, yet received only £54,000.

Yesterday, however, Mr Justice Knox refused an interim injunction which would have forced the AAA to reveal full details of all its financial contracts to its constituent clubs.

The writ, served by Mr Winch, with support of Mr Johnson and Mr David Bedford, all of whom are IAC officials recently elected to the AAA Southern Counties Area Committee, sought details of income from television, payment to athletes and to the sponsors' agents, the Alan Pascoe Association, from the Peugeot Talbot meeting at which the Budd-Slaney race was staged.

The meeting was promoted by the Southern Counties Area Committee, but Mr Winch and his supporters found they were refused access to details of the financial details surrounding it.

Mr Justice Knox said that the AAA rules allowed details of its affairs to be given to general committee members such as Mr Winch, who is the nominated general committee member for the Southern Counties, but could not be passed by him to

Winch: Wants clubs to have say in sport.

the Southern Counties Area which he represents. The judge said that the rules specifically stated that details of sponsorship and financial contracts could not be disclosed to non-committee members, which include the area associations. In his judgement Mr

Winch was the general committee member and not the area which nominated him.

Mr Bedford, chairman of the IAC and a party to Mr Winch's writ, said after the hearing: "It is a sad day for athletics. It seems the ruling body of the sport is accountable to no-one. It has always been assumed the AAA was made up of clubs and areas who ran the sport between them. Apparently that is not the way it really is. Now we know we do not have."

Mr Winch, who is secretary of the IAC said: "The matter is not going to be dropped. Clubs must have a say in how the sport is being run. We hope to reach a decision early next week on our next move." The order was sought yesterday pending a full hearing of Mr Winch's action next year. The judge said that to grant the order at this stage would be to decide the matter without full investigation, which the AAA feared could damage the sport.

Man dies in new Legion outbreak

Health inspectors are trying to trace the source of an outbreak of Legionnaire's disease at Glasgow Royal Infirmary in which one man has died.

The Greater Glasgow Health Board said yesterday that three more cases at the hospital have been confirmed, and two more are suspected.

The patients are confined to a £50 million extension to the hospital, opened three years ago, where a man aged 59 in the peripheral vascular unit died from the disease on Friday.

Emergency surgery only is being carried out in the 16 operating theatres, while all waiting list admissions have been suspended.

A board spokesman said there were no clues as yet to the source of the infection.

Militant move to unseat Kilroy-Silk forces him to resign Commons post

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Knowsley, North, has resigned from Mr Neil Kinnock's frontbench team because of an attempt by the Militant Tendency to oust him from his constituency.

News of his decision to stand down came yesterday as it emerged that Mr Kinnock had refused Mr Robin Cook's request for a more senior post in the Shadow Cabinet after last week's election, which saw him move from bottom to fifth place in the voting order.

The Labour leader announced a Shadow Cabinet line-up in which all 14 re-elected members retain their present jobs, and Mr Robert Hughes, who tied for the last elected place with Mr Frank Dobson, takes over as Transport spokesman from Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody who lost her place.

Mr Kilroy-Silk said he had asked to be relieved of his duties as a spokesman on home affairs in order to concentrate all his efforts on fighting off the Militant campaign, whose aim is to unseat him as the Labour candidate in favour of Mr Tony Mulhearn, president of Liverpool Labour Party and a prominent Militant supporter.

He told *The Times*: "I have resigned because I am facing a very well-organized, and extremely ruthless Militant Tendency campaign to take over my constituency."

"It has taken the form of intimidation of party members and packing meetings with people not entitled to be there. I need a great deal of time in order to unpick, unravel and publicize the extent of that conspiracy. I cannot, therefore, devote the energy and time I should devote to my shadow ministerial duties."

Mr Kilroy-Silk's decision came as a setback to Mr Kinnock who, it is understood, tried hard to dissuade him from standing down. He was regarded as a valued member of Mr Gerald Kaufman's home affairs team. It also highlights yet again the weakening effect on Labour's parliamentary effort of MPs having spent so much of their energies trying to fend off left-wing activists in their constituency parties.

Mr Dobson retains his present post as a health spokesman. Whoever wins the ballot for the fifteenth place will keep his job in the Shadow Cabinet.

Mr Cook will stay as the party's campaigns co-ordinator. He had a long discussion with Mr Kinnock in which he inquired after the defence portfolio, which he has long coveted, and other senior posts.

'Mountain of evidence' in union vote-rigging

By Barrie Clement Labour Reporter

There is a "mountain" of evidence of branch ballot-rigging in the construction workers' union for posts at all levels over nearly 50 years, a senior official has claimed in a frank internal letter.

The letter by Mr Charles Lowther, former secretary of the Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians (UCATT) Northern region, urges a complete rethink of democratic procedure and comes amid fresh controversy over voting returns.

Mr Edward Ablett, right-wing winner of an election to find Mr Lowther's successor, attacked the union's decision to re-run the poll in December and for "gerrymandering" crucial branch boundaries, an accusation officials have vehemently denied.

In a letter to Mr Ablett, Mr Lowther writes: "Are you seriously suggesting to me that abuses of voting returns do not take place in this union, there is evidence to suggest that it has been done, for as long as I can remember and I have been in this union for 46 years, sitting on the general council of the union brought this home to me very forcibly."

Mr Lowther, a left-winger who retired from the union in September, pointed out yesterday that all elections in the union have in the past been carried out at branch meetings with a show of hands.

The UCATT leadership recently decided to comply with last year's Trade Union Act to elect executive members by secret postal ballot. However, the union general secretary and assistant general secretary, together with all other regional and branch officials, will be elected by branch votes.

Mr Lowther calls for an investigation so that a new system can be evolved which avoids the "constant accusations of fiddling."

Mr Lowther is under attack for closing two branches which nominated Mr Ablett. One has since re-started. Mr Lowther said they were closed because the union was unable to find branch officials.



Sir Allan Davis, Lord Mayor-elect of London, wearing his wartime Fleet Air Arm flying helmet to get into the spirit of the Lord Mayor's show next Saturday (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

Dismissal threat still hangs over Liverpool workers

From Peter Davenport, Liverpool

Thousands of council workers in Liverpool still were under the threat of redundancy in spite of the High Court ruling that such a move was illegal. It was claimed last night. The council had planned to lay off its entire 31,000 work force in the new year in an attempt to resolve artificially the budget deficit by saving on its wage bill.

But unions representing 6,000 teachers in the city challenged the validity of the notices in the High Court and won a ruling that they were unlawful. It had been assumed by local union representatives that the decision would apply to all council workers.

Yesterday Mr Graham Burgess, Liverpool chairman of the Naipo, the second largest of the town hall unions in the city, said the ruling applied only to members of those unions.

He said: "When the council has met with national leaders of the town hall unions they gave a firm assurance that all the notices would be withdrawn."

But in her statement last week far from withdrawing them they affirmed them. It is ridiculous, but it seems that the court ruling related only to council workers.

Last night a city council spokesman in Liverpool said it means that about 25,000 workers could still be made redundant on January 1. The council seems to want to keep all options open. We think it is disgraceful.

Yesterday a city council spokesman in Liverpool said: "We have not withdrawn redundancy notices yet. We have given a commitment that they will be withdrawn."

Self-help people clog tax system

By Rupert Morris

A surge in the number of self-employed emerged yesterday as one of the main reasons for delays in tax work which are costing the Exchequer millions of pounds.

Figures released by the Department of Employment show that one in nine working people in June 1985 was self-employed, compared with about one in 13 in June 1980.

Other factors blamed by the Inland Revenue and the main trade union involved, the Inland Revenue Staff Federation were staff cuts (15,000 since 1979) and a further 4,000, 5,000 by April 1988, an overtime ban and the computerization of the tax collection system.

The increase in self-employed is widely regarded as the most significant long-term development in their tax affairs are almost always more complicated and time-consuming.

The result has been a rapid increase in delays both to PAYE and Schedule D self-employed people's tax collections. The Inland Revenue admitted yesterday to being "very concerned" at the size of the problem.

For the moment, however, the transfer to computerized local tax to central terminal by 1988, seems to be causing the most severe difficulties. In the West Midlands the number of letters unopened in tax office for more than two months has gone up six times during the past two years.

Company directors' tax affairs are taking much longer to clear up. A year ago the Inland Revenue had cleared one in three directors within a year of the tax year's completion. At the same stage this year, only one in six directors had their previous year's tax affairs cleared.

The Inland Revenue refuses to accept the suggestion that directors, self-employed people and those with the most complicated tax affairs are getting off lightly. It insists delays are affecting every sort of taxpayer more or less equally.

Of the 6.5 million letters unopened in tax offices in October, more than half related to basic rate PAYE taxpayers.

INCREASE IN SELF-EMPLOYED	
	Thousands
1981	1984
All industries	2,057 2,433
Manufacturing	146 183
Service industries	1,273 1,558
Ag, forestry, fish, etc.	250 248
Metal goods, engg, vehicles	46 49
Other prodn indus	103 135
Construction	388 482
Distrib, hotels, catering, repairs	698 795
Transport, communication	9 11
Banking, finance, insurance	188 225
Other services	288 400

(Source: Department of Employment Quarterly)

Pub clue in rapist hunt

Detectives were last night examining a derelict site in north London where they believe a woman driver, kidnapped on the M4 more than 80 miles away, was brought and raped at the weekend.

The victim, an academic and widow, who was attacked on Saturday night, was eventually freed and told police that she had seen the illuminated lights of a public house called the 'Joiners Arms' close to where she was sexually assaulted.

After examining the area surrounding four public houses with that name yesterday, detectives decided they had found the likely area near a fifth in Hackney.

The woman was abducted on Saturday between 8pm and 9.30pm after her yellow Citroen 2CV was hit on the rear outside by a light-coloured Audi on the eastern carriageway of the motorway. She was on her way home after visiting friends in Bath when her car was struck between junction 15 and 17, seven miles east of a service station.

As the woman got out of her car on the hard shoulder to discuss the accident she was confronted by the driver of the other car wielding a knife. The man handcuffed her hands behind her back and then forced her into his car.

The woman was driven to London lying on the front passenger seat of the car, by the man, described in his late 20s, who took her to the site used as a car park - where he raped her. Afterwards he drove the woman across London to Victoria Station and dumped her at about 5.30am on Sunday morning.

Wiltshire police are investigating another rape not far from the M4 in the Reading area eight days ago. A woman was picked up by a man driving a white van in the village of Mortimer, outside Reading. She went to a public house with the man and was later held for five hours and raped and beaten.



Times award entries praised

By Charles Knevitt Architecture Correspondent

Mr Rod Hackney, chairman of the assessors of The Times/RIBA Community Enterprise Scheme, said yesterday that "community initiative" was particularly in the inner cities.

The assessors met for the first time to consider the 182 entries which included 64 community centres, 37 housing schemes, including refurbishment, new buildings and self-build projects, and many environmental schemes such as urban farms and playgrounds.

Mr Hackney said the response was excellent in quality as well as quantity. He particularly welcomed the entries for housing schemes. They demonstrate how local enterprise is also providing much-needed employment as well as housing and social facilities," he said.

There are 163 entries from England, two from Northern Ireland, one from Wales, and 16 from Scotland. Short-listed projects will be announced shortly before Christmas.

Looters fined

Two white teenagers, one a juvenile aged 16 were fined £50 and £60 respectively by Tottenham magistrates yesterday after they admitted burglary at supermarkets during the Tottenham riots last month.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$10.00, Belgium \$10.00, Canada \$10.00, France \$10.00, Germany \$10.00, Greece \$10.00, Hong Kong \$10.00, India \$10.00, Italy \$10.00, Japan \$10.00, Korea \$10.00, Malaysia \$10.00, Mexico \$10.00, New Zealand \$10.00, Norway \$10.00, Singapore \$10.00, South Africa \$10.00, Sweden \$10.00, Switzerland \$10.00, Taiwan \$10.00, Thailand \$10.00, USA \$10.00, West Germany \$10.00, Yugoslavia \$10.00.

Opposition front bench team

The Opposition front bench for the 1985-86 parliamentary session is as follows:

Treasury and Economic Affairs	Mr Roy Hattersley	Other departmental portfolios are as follows:	
Home Affairs	Mr Gerald Kaufman	Agriculture	Mr Brynmor Jones
Energy	Mr Stan Orme	Arts	Mr Norman Buchanan
Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs	Mr Denis Healey	Disabled People	Mr Alf Morris
Employment	Mr John Prescott	Legal Affairs	Mr John Morris
Campaigns Co-ordinator	Mr Robin Cook	Overseas	Dr Stuart Holland
Leader of the House	Mr Peter Shore	Development and Co-operation	
Trade and Industry	Mr John Smith	Science	Dr Jeremy Bray
Education	Mr Giles Radice	and Technology	
Environment	Dr John Cunningham	Women's Rights	Miss Jo Richardson
Northern Ireland	Mr Peter Archer	The following are also members of the Shadow Cabinet:	
Wales	Mr Barry Jones	Chief Whip	Mr Derek Foster
Health and Social Security	Mr Michael Meacher	Chairman of the Labour peers	PLP Mr Jack Dorman
Defence and Disarmament	Mr Denzil Davies	Opposition Chief Whip,	Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos
Scotland	Mr Donald Dewar	Lords	Lord Ponsonby
Health	Mr Frank Dobson	Labour peers' representative	
Transport	Mr Bob Hughes		Lord Orford

Scientist fights FO on age bar

By Patricia Clough

A woman scientist claimed yesterday that she was unfairly excluded from the Foreign Office "high flyers" late entry scheme because the age limit of 32 discriminated against married women.

Mrs Violet Leavers, aged 35, made the charge before London South Industrial Tribunal in a test case backed by the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Mrs Leavers, who is fighting the case under her own name, last year took a first class physics degree and is now studying for her PhD. She is married to an unemployed engineer whose name was not disclosed in court.

She was turned down for late entry into Grade 7 D at the Foreign Office, a scheme which admits only 20 people a year considered to be future Ambassadorial material.

The case continues today.

US faith in laser defence system

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

President Reagan's science adviser yesterday held out the possibility of a single laser being able to destroy enemy intercontinental ballistic missiles at a rate of up to 1,000 a minute.

Dr George Keyworth was speaking at a conference organized in London by the *Financial Times*. He said that in a year or so after President Reagan launched his Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) project, they had thought they had a good chance of developing the necessary technology. Today they were certain they could.

One of the keys would be the ability to attack ICBMs in the first, or boost, phase of their flight, before individual warheads had separated from the booster. He said that today they were encouraged by the prospects for at least three different, speed-of-light, boost-phase defences. The important characteristic which they had in

common was the speed at which they could operate.

"That speed could permit a single laser, located safely on the ground and beaming pulses off mirrors in space, to destroy up to 20 boosters per second as they're rising over the Soviet Union. That translates up to a figure of up to 1,000 missiles per minute."

"These numbers describe an awesome defensive capability: a battery of perhaps a dozen such weapons would so overwhelm the offensive forces that countering them by proliferation would be out of the question," Dr Keyworth said.

SDI systems would relegate inter-continental ballistic missiles back to the purely retaliatory role they once played, and because of this would drastically diminish any purpose in maintaining large fleets of them. This should make it possible to negotiate huge reductions in their numbers.

Employees to vote on pension fund 'holiday'

Shop stewards representing 1100 manual workers at a Doncaster tractor plant are planning a ballot on industrial action in protest at a decision by their US-owned employers to halt pension contributions (Donald Macintyre writes).

J. I. Case, owners of the former International Harvester tractor plant, have told trustees of the non-management pension fund that they intend taking a "contributions holiday" because the scheme is substantially in surplus.

The company last week announced a new investment programme of about £90 million with the aid of a Government grant, to transfer machinery from the US.

Mr Brian Kelly, senior Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers' shop steward and secretary of the inter-union joint negotiating committee at the Wheatley plant, last night accused the company of "plundering our pension fund in order to finance their investment".

for the settlement to go before a judge in open court to avoid any suggestion of undue influence.

Finally the Law Society maintains, although this is contested by the Bar, that solicitors should be able to read the statement agreed between parties in the settlement of a libel action.

The Government endorsed the royal commission proposal in 1983 but has done nothing to implement it. Two weeks ago the Bar's monopoly of High Court auditors' rights was challenged in a test case brought by Mr Cyril Smith, Liberal MP for Rochdale, and it is believed that this case, now to go to appeal with Law Society backing, prompted the officials to look again at the proposal.

The Law Society is pressing for a speedy hearing of the appeal, in which Mr Smith claims his solicitor should be able to read a seven-line apology in a defamation case. If successful, the Court of Appeal could make a practice direction enabling solicitors to appear in such proceedings. If not, there would have to be legislation which would mean a delay of at least two years.



Plea for change in attitudes

A decisive shift in attitudes is needed to break down suspicion between black and whites in Britain, Professor Bhiku Berekh (above), whose appointment as a deputy chairman of a Commission for Racial Equality was announced yesterday.

Speaking at a press briefing in London, he called for "symbolic gestures" from the Queen and the Prime Minister and from others in a position of influence, new efforts to change attitudes in school and to combat racial discrimination, and the appointment of black people to positions of power (Pat Healy writes).

Cockfield warns Britain on EEC trading barriers

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The British Government was warned yesterday by Lord Cockfield, the senior British member of the European Commission, that if it was serious about making the EEC work it could not afford to pick and choose which obstacles to the internal market should be removed.

British ministers have pressed for the opening up of the EEC, particularly to financial services, confident that British banking and insurance could compete and prosper.

But the Government has been notably reluctant, as seen from Brussels, to co-operate in making easier the movement of goods and people across national frontiers.

There has been unwillingness to relax customs and immigration checks at British ports. The cost to the European Community of frontier controls is calculated in £7 billion a year.

Lord Cockfield, commissioner responsible for the internal market, was critical of Community governments in general. But he was speaking in London, and the British Government appeared to be his chief target.

"The British Government should be in the forefront in supporting the comprehensive programme (agreed at the Milan summit in June) for completing the internal market by 1992," he said. "Not just some of the proposals, but all of them. Not picking and choosing, but going for the big time."

Once one State started to pick and choose they all would, and nothing would be done. There would be procrastination.

Lord Cockfield said that Britain, uniquely dependent on international trade, had a bigger stake in the making of a single market of 320 million people than almost any other member State.

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Travel agents besieged by customers clamouring for cheap holiday offers

Travel agents all over Britain were besieged yesterday by customers clamouring to buy the cheapest holidays in a decade.

Within six minutes, "sold out" signs appeared on thousands of computers at travel agencies as queues of bargain-hunters, many having camped outside, scrambled to snap up cut-price holiday offers.

Britain's largest tour operator, Thomson Holidays, sold 1,000 £25 one-week and £35 two-week holidays in Spain, Malaga and Corfu next May at a rate of £13 per second; after agents opened their doors at 9 am.

Intasun announced late yesterday the "cheapest" family holiday packages ever offered in Britain for a family of three (two adults and one child) for a one-week self-catering or full board holiday in Spain's Costa Brava, Majorca, Ibiza, the Italian Adriatic and near Venice.

The 80,000 capacity "Family First" package, available throughout Britain from today will cost £171 for a family self-catering holiday (all sharing the same room) and £194 for full board.

Mr. Harry Goodman, Intasun's chairman, said: "The price of £37 per head for the self-catering holidays beat Thomson's offer by £22 per person."

The Thomson family package is £239, compared to Intasun's £171. The holidays will be available in April, May and June next year, and there will be no standby flights. "Holiday-makers will know right from the start the resort, date and flight," Mr Goodman said.

A spokesman for Thomson said last night that it would review the Intasun offer and see how it compared with its package. "Our brochure pledges no other operator will undercut us. We will be looking at this," the spokesman said.

Thomson said that between 65,000 and 70,000 of its 100,000

Lines jammed

Telephone callers in search of cheap holidays yesterday jammed the Manchester exchange with nearly one million calls, engineers reported. In a normal day 35,000 calls are handled.

The two exchanges, 061-832 and 061-833, were jammed constantly from 8.30am until late yesterday. Miss Pat O'Keith, a spokeswoman for British Telecom in Manchester, said:

"£79 and £99 bargains holidays were sold by 8pm last night."

Yesterday, 500 £5 camping holidays in the south of France, offered by NAT Holidays of Leeds, sold within seconds, according to Lunn Poly, the travel agents.

As Britain's price-cut travel war escalates, Thomson poured scorn yesterday on critics who claimed the bargain basement holiday were causing havoc throughout the industry.

Mr Brett said that Thomson had sold 500,000 summer 1986 holidays abroad during the past month, worth a total of £115 million, a 70 per cent increase on sales for the same period last year. "I don't call that damaging the travel industry. The bargains have stimulated the market," he said.

Intasun, Thomson's main rival, have sold 450,000 holidays for next summer, compared with 18,000 for the same period last year.

The two operators will share package holiday sales worth close on £4.5 million next year, out of an estimated £9 million of package holiday sales licensed to be sold in Britain for the coming year.

Thomson will have a £2 million to £2.5 million share of the holiday market, nearly double the amount sold last year, and Intasun will sell holidays worth between £1.75

million and £2.2 million, an increase of 70 per cent over last year's total. Both operators sell the holidays through up to 5,000 travel agents in Britain.

Mr Nigel Coombs, the editor of *Travel Trade Gazette*, the industry's largest selling paper, yesterday predicted that small and medium-size tour operators will top in the price-cut war.

The present war was bordering on "hysteria" and would possibly force many small operators to close, while medium-size travel firms would have to trim their operations, he said in London.

"The very aggressive marketing strategies of Thomson and Intasun are knocking out the smaller travel operator. But, at the same time, the extreme competition between the two big operators is good for the consumer, who is protected by government legislation."

Hoteliers abroad were offering very competitive rates, too good to resist, while Britain's bad weather, lack of industrial strife and strong pound had encouraged people to book earlier for holidays next year, he said.

Mr Coombs described the super-bargains, such as the free holiday plus £5 spending money, as "super-hype" and not having much effect overall on the price-cut war.

Yesterday, Mrs Doll Knott, from Mill Hill, north London, and nine other holiday seekers won a £170 consolation prize and a new colour television after missing out on a Thomson £25 holiday.

Other companies are offering free gifts, cash prizes and even a draw to fly on Concorde to people who complete bookings.

Virgin Atlantic, the airline owned by Mr Richard Branson, yesterday announced that it had been given approval for a new service to Miami, Florida, next spring with an introductory one-way fare of £99.



Mr Colin Welland, the actor, protesting at the Victoria & Albert Museum's donation scheme yesterday, which he ignored (Photograph: Jonathan Player).

Protests disrupt museum calm

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The customary calm of the Victoria & Albert Museum was shattered yesterday when it introduced its controversial policy of asking for a voluntary £2 admission charge.

The move produced a vociferous demonstration outside the Kensington museum in west London, by Civil Service trade unionists, and others who handed out badges protesting about the scheme.

Those who braved the good-natured picket found the entrance of the V&A cluttered by camera crews, journalists and slightly bewildered museum staff.

The new admission system insists that visitors queue in front of cash tills before entering, but are admitted even if they ignore the signs asking for donations.

The scheme's opponents outnumbered visitors yesterday, leaving those who had paid and received an official badge, in a minority. The most enthusiastic payers were American tourists.

Mr Norman Buchan, the shadow Arts Minister, and the actor/writer Mr Colin Welland, made a point of marching into the museum without paying. Mr Buchan, concerned by reports that non-payers would be harassed, sought an assurance that this would not be the case. It was readily given

to ignore the admission charges. "The people who would be most intimidated by this are not professional people, but bus drivers out with their children."

Mr Welland, criticising the scheme as "total coercion", said: "I do not believe I should be charged to see what is essentially mine in the first place."

The V and A believes voluntary charges are vital to its development. A message to visitors from Sir Roy Strong, the director, says that even if the museum stood still, operating costs would work out at £4.55 for every visitor.

Mr Buchan urged all visitors to ignore the admission charges. "The people who would be most intimidated by this are not professional people, but bus drivers out with their children."

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Bradford pleads right to dismiss headmaster

Bradford City Council yesterday launched its Court of Appeal attempt to continue disciplinary proceedings against Mr Raymond Honeyford, the headmaster at the centre of a racial controversy.

The council and its assistant director of education, Mr Norman Roper, are seeking to overturn a High Court ruling in September which allowed Mr Honeyford to be reinstated.

He was suspended from his post at Drummond Middle School, Bradford in April after writing several articles criticising the authority's educational policy towards ethnic minorities.

About 90 per cent of the children at the school are from Asian backgrounds and one article suggested that white children in a predominantly black school were disadvantaged.

Mr Justice Simon Brown, in the High Court, granted Mr Honeyford a declaration that there could be no further disciplinary proceedings against him over his alleged criticism of the authority's multi-ethnic policy after he was vindicated by a meeting of school governors who recommended his reinstatement.

Mr John Melville Williams, QC, for the council, told Lord Justice Lawton, sitting with Lord Justice Goff and Lord Justice Dillon, that the case was of "substantial importance to a substantial number of people".

The appeal is expected to last three days.

Day-care surgery urged in minor cases

Up to a third of people going into hospital for general surgery could be sent home the same day, the Royal College of Surgeons of England said yesterday.

This would help to cut NHS waiting lists, be cheaper than in-patient care, and would be popular with patients whose lives would suffer less disruption, a college report claimed.

It said few health authorities, however, had been prepared to invest in the necessary facilities for day-care surgery.

The report said: "A wide variety of general surgical operations are suitable for day-care surgery - perhaps a third of general surgery admission in a district general hospital can be dealt with in this way."

Suitable conditions for day-care surgery included simple hernias, almost all operations for varicose veins, the removal of a wide variety of minor lumps, biopsy of breast lesions, and a wide variety of other minor problems.

The total operating time should not exceed 30 minutes, and patients should live no more than an hour's drive from the hospital.

The report was prepared by a college working party, led by the Mr David Innes-Williams, the vice-president. It said many surgeons had been concerned about how to deal with pain or complications in patients who could no longer be observed in hospital. "They have, moreover, often been unconvinced by the economic arguments

More people eating meat

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The British are eating more red meat than at any time in the past 10 years, Mr F. P. D. Moore, chairman of the Smithfield Show joint committee, said yesterday.

An increasing amount of beef was being produced and eaten in Britain, because farmers and

butchers were ready to respond to changing consumer demands. Consumption of beef and veal is expected to reach 1,089,000 tonnes this year, compared with 1,040,000 tonnes last year. Lamb consumption is forecast to rise from 395,000 to 399,000 tonnes.

Call for firework sales ban

By Robin Young

British firework safety campaigners will press the European Parliament for legislation banning the shop sale of fireworks.

Mr Noel Tobin, director of the National Campaign for Firework Reform, said yesterday: "We will be asking for European legislation which would licence fireworks for properly organized displays only. Most western European countries already have stricter firework laws than Britain."

The campaign claims that there has been no improvement in firework casualties since 1976, when the age for buying fireworks was raised from 13 to 16.

The Government's own figures show that during a four-week period 778 people needed hospital treatment for firework injuries last year. That was a small decrease on the figure for 1983, when 833 injuries requiring hospital attention were notified.

The campaign yesterday announced a new award which

it intends to present to firework display organizers who adopt a 10-point plan for safety.

Serious injuries already are being reported from this year's run-up to Guy Fawkes' Night. Richard Capon, aged 18 months, of Bugbrooke, Northamptonshire, was recovering yesterday from a skin graft operation at Stoke Mandeville Hospital after burns suffered at a firework display in Becketts Park, Northampton, last week.

Part of a rocket flew under his clothing as he sat in his push chair.

The Department of Trade already has ordered the withdrawal of Chinese-made "Red Tail" rockets, after a Cheshire man was injured by one which exploded in his face.

Michelle Bergin, aged four, of Hernden, near Canterbury, Kent, will have her first skin graft tomorrow at East Grinstead Hospital burns unit, where doctors say she will need 15 years of surgery for injuries from a Chinese firework at a garden party which fell over and shot a ball of flame into her chest.

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Man burnt with petrol stays silent on attack

A man aged 32 who was tied up, doused with petrol and set alight, yesterday refused to give police details of his attackers or the motive, as he recovered from severe burns in a Middlesex hospital.

The man, who has asked police not to reveal his identity, was found with severe burns to his face and hands outside Wexham Park Hospital in Slough, Berkshire, on Sunday night. He had his hands tied with a necktie and petrol had been poured over him by a group of attackers.

The injured man who is white was taken to the special unit for burns at Mount Vernon Hospital, Northwood, where his condition was described as stable.

The new tunnel would be a submerged tube and could be two or four lanes. Mowlem partners would include Morgan Grenfell, bankers W. S. Atkins, engineers, and Dutch experts

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Third tunnel offer for Dartford by consortium

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Motorists yesterday were offered relief from future traffic jams at the Dartford Tunnel by a privately financed third tunnel within four years.

John Mowlem, a construction company, which is already building London Dockland's airport and light railway, is prepared to put £50 million-£100 million into a scheme that would relieve jams and offer motorists a flat 70p toll unchanged in real terms for 25 years from the opening of the tunnel.

Traffic through the existing twin-tunnels already has built up from 12 million to 20 million vehicles a year since new sections of the M25 opened in the past two years, and

Mowlem predicts two-hour queues at certain times of the day by 1991 unless a third tunnel is built.

"We believe there will be a major foul-up at Dartford," Mr Philip Beck, Mowlem chairman said.

Mowlem's proposal is to take over the existing tunnels with their £60 million debt, build a third one by late 1989, and run the three as an integrated private operation for 25 years. They would then be handed back to the Government.

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Hume warning on abortion for minors

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Doctors must not be allowed to give abortion advice or treatment to girls aged under 16 without their parents' knowledge, Cardinal Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, said yesterday.

In a letter to Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister of State for Health, the cardinal said that when revised guidelines are issued on the provision of contraception to minors, abortion should be specifically excluded as an area where doctors cannot act without parents' knowledge.

He said it was "a major concern" that the guidance "should explicitly exclude abortion as a matter of clinical discretion to be advised or carried out without the knowledge of parents or persons with equivalent function."

"The judgement of the House of Lords concentrated on contraceptive advice and treatment. It should not be extended to cover abortion as well."

The British Medical Association said its understanding of the law was that minors were

entitled to confidentiality on abortion, just as they were on contraception.

In his letter, Cardinal Hume said he recognized that there were "cases of emergency and family breakdown when restoration of good relationships between parents and children cannot be achieved at once."

He added: "Doctors and clinics must not assume, however, that every disagreement or difference of opinion between parents and children, even on sexual matters, amounts to family breakdown."

Looters fined

Police in Liverpool have fined 10 people who looted shops after a fire at a shopping centre.

The fire, which broke out at 11pm, destroyed a large section of the shopping centre, which was a major shopping area.

The police said that the looting was carried out by a group of about 10 people, who were caught by the police.

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Congressmen may fight to thwart scrapping of Midgetman programme

From Michael Binyon, Washington

As Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, began his talks in Moscow, congressional leaders were debating how to respond to a Pentagon proposal to ban Soviet and US strategic mobile missiles, which would effectively kill the development of the Midgetman.

Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, and his influential assistant secretary Mr Richard Perle, proposed the ban as a way of stopping the development of two new Soviet missiles, the SS24 and SS25, which can both be transported by train or road.

Dutch sign deal for 48 cruise missiles

From Robert Schull, Amsterdam

At a ceremony in The Hague yesterday Mr Hans van den Broek, the Dutch Foreign Minister and Mr Paul Bremer, the US ambassador, signed an agreement allowing 48 American cruise missiles to be based in The Netherlands.

The agreement, in the form of an exchange of letters, is expected to come into force in April, after it has been approved by the Dutch Parliament and the US Congress.

On Friday the Dutch Cabinet decided in favour of deployment because, according to US estimates, the Soviet Union has deployed more than 378 SS20 intermediate-range missiles since June 1 last year.

The Netherlands would not have allowed deployment if the number of Soviet missiles had remained at that level or returned to it.

Friday's announcement came some four hours later than expected because Mr Ruud Lubbers, the Prime Minister, was reported to have been in favour of delaying signing of

Winemakers jailed and fined £40m

Palermo (Reuters) - A court here fined eight Italians convicted of adulterating wine up to £40 million each and sentenced them to prison terms of between one year and four years.

The fines dwarfed the value of the wine they adulterated, said in court to be 30 billion lire (about £12 million). The eight were found guilty of fraud and of adding sugar and colouring to wine but were cleared of criminal conspiracy.

Bombers strike

Santiago (Reuters) - Bombs damaged two government buildings and destroyed seven buses in the Chilean capital in a violent prelude to two days of protest against the military junta.

New role

Vicenna - Dr Kurt Waldheim, the former UN Secretary-General, was adopted by the Austrian Conservative People's Party as their candidate for the forthcoming presidential elections.

Mengele doubt

Frankfurt (AP) - A prosecutor here met an Israeli group which believes Josef Mengele is alive and said West German investigators had not determined if the Nazi war criminal died in Brazil in 1979.

Jailer jailed

Honiarua, Solomon Islands (Reuters) - The chief jailer here found himself on the other side of the bars after he was given a three-year sentence for assaulting a prisoner.

EEC handed proposal to raise £120m food aid

From Richard Owen, Brussels

After Bob Geldof's demand that the "preposterous and outrageous" EEC food mountains should be given to starving in Africa, a new medium-term plan for food aid amounting to about £60 million has been drawn up with the condition that this is matched by member states to make £120 million.

In general Britain gave the plan a cautious welcome in principle, but some development ministers complained that the project, which was unveiled only on Friday needed further study. The plan presented yesterday by Signor Lovenzo Natali, the Commissioner for Development, is intended to fill the gap between the emergency food programme adopted by the EEC at Dublin last year, and the longer-term aid provided under the Lomé Convention.

At the Development Council session, Britain resisted pressure for restoration of the emergency grain reserve of 500,000 tonnes of cereal for famine-stricken areas of Africa. It was dropped from the budget after Mr Ian Gow, Minister of State at the Treasury, had said it was raining in Africa and the reserve was unnecessary.



A bullet-riddled police van and a damaged post office armoured vehicle in which two people died during an armed raid in Verviers, Belgium, yesterday, when £100,000 was stolen.

Alfonsín jubilant after election boost

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

President Alfonsín of Argentina has emerged from mid-term congressional elections with a strengthened mandate for his two-year-old democratic government.

His centrist Radical Party gained a broad victory over the faction-ridden Peronists, increasing its slight majority in the Chamber of Deputies and

winning control of several key provinces.

In a statement issued hours after provisional results were released on Sunday, Alfonsín said the elections represented "another victory for democracy". He urged the 127 newly-elected deputies to join him "in the exciting task of pulling the country out of decadence and building the modern Argentina".

With 96 per cent of the vote counted, projections gave the Radicals 43 per cent of the vote compared with 34.5 per cent for several Peronist slates.

Both main parties received fewer votes overall than in the October 1983 elections which swept Señor Alfonsín into office, although Monday's results were considered a clear victory for the president's party.

Señor Leopoldo Moreau, elected as a deputy for the Radical Party, said the victory

was "a plebiscite in favour of a Government which has received broad popular support".

For the Peronist party, split between a reformist wing and a leadership of old time labour bosses, the election was as much a chance to sort out internal conflicts as a contest with the Radicals.

The Radical candidates fared better than expected in provincial areas.

Tank row highlights French discontent

From Diana Geddes, Paris

The suspension at the weekend of General Philippe Arnould as head of the French First Armoured Division, based in West Germany, has again highlighted the malaise among the traditionally right-wing upper echelons of the Army and a deep-seated feeling of the neglect of the conventional armed forces.

Talking to journalists last week the general said the French were two generations behind the Americans and the Germans, and one generation behind the British as far as tanks were concerned.

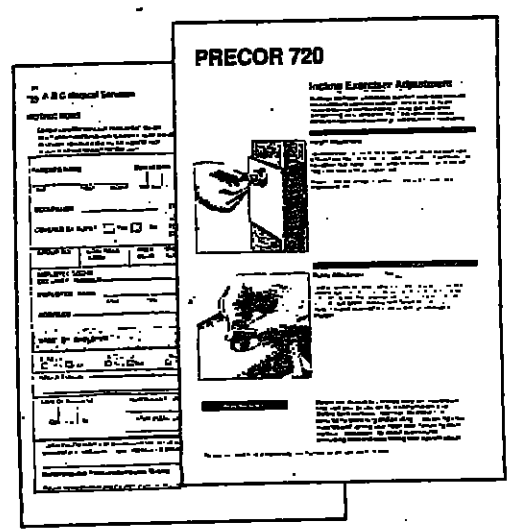
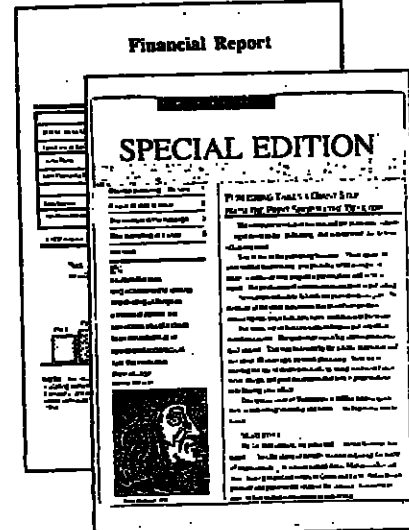
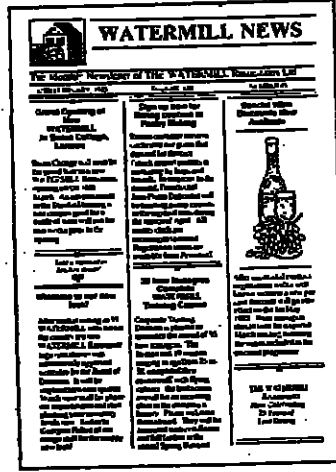
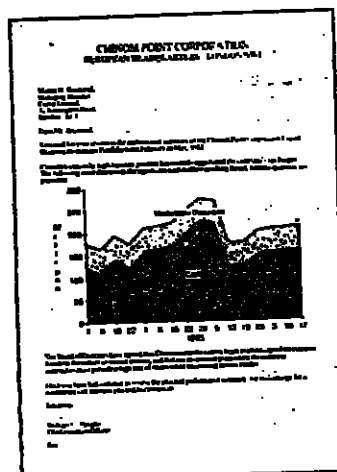
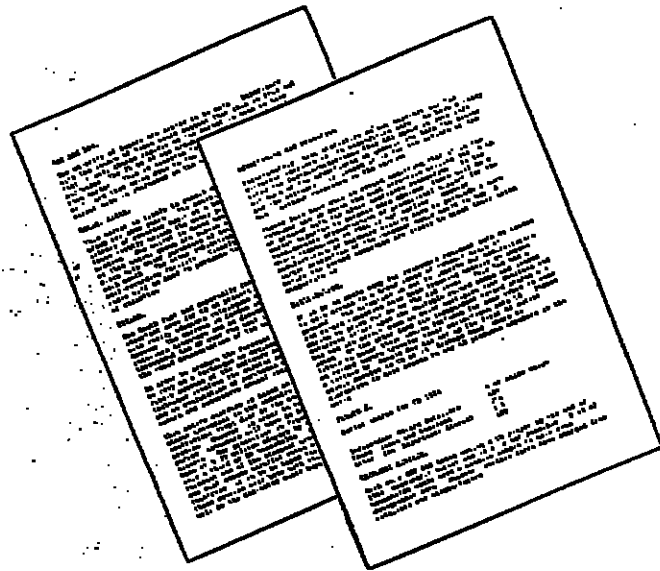
He said the First Armoured Division's budget had been cut by 17 per cent last year, and by a further 8.5 per cent this year.

General Arnould's comments come like manna for the opposition parties, which have been striving to show that, contrary to government claims, defence is not an area of costly national agreement.

Many opposition leaders have said that although he may have broken the traditional reserve of an Army officer, he was simply saying out loud what others had long been saying in private.

Many Army officers not only resent the priority given to the nuclear force, but also the siphoning-off of funds for the new rapid-intervention force.

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Power cut to hospitals Doctors threaten strike as Israel cash crisis grows

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Israel's sick economy yesterday prompted a strike call by doctors, a threat of more electricity cuts, and a warning that the coalition Government could soon be in jeopardy. New figures also showed that a record number of people applied for unemployment insurance last month, while a record 60 per cent more had applied for it in the last three months.

Doctors employed in hospitals by the Histadrut trade union health fund, which provides about 75 per cent of all the medical care in the country, said they would not work unless their overdue monthly pay cheques were put into their accounts immediately. Only emergency cancer and dialysis treatment were to go ahead as usual.

The health fund has run up a massive deficit which is meant to be paid off with the help of increased employers' contributions. The Government Bill to do this has, however, become entangled in the committee stage at the Knesset.

Meanwhile the Health Minister, Mr Mordechai Gur, a Labour Party member, is trying to force the Likud Finance Minister, Mr Yitzhak Mordechai, to hand over about \$1.3 million (\$9 million) which he says is owed to his department by the Treasury. Among the many outstanding bills owed by the Government health service is one for nearly \$1 million for electricity.

The Israel Electric Corporation (IEC) cut off power to four government hospitals on Sunday as a warning that the bills must be paid. It was only after the ministry promised to pay "a good deal of the bill" in the next few days that power was restored.

The IEC is in increasing trouble itself because it is owed large amounts by many big consumers and is borrowing at high interest rates to meet its own costs. It is now threatening to switch off supplies to a number of towns, and to the National Water Company, if they do not pay their bills promptly.

The new unemployment figures are particularly disturbing for the Government, which had hoped to keep the level to no more than 7.5 per cent in spite of its austerity programme. The actual figure is now 8.3 per cent and Mr Moshe Katsav, the Social Affairs Minister has warned that it will rise to 10 per cent by next March, leaving more than 150,000 out of work.

The Histadrut general conference opens this evening against this background, and its leaders have prepared a long and expensive list of demands for debate.

All this economic pressure, according to Mr Ezer Weizman, a left wing, but largely independent member of the Cabinet, "is likely to precipitate a serious crisis in the unity Government."

Mr Gur, battling to keep the hospitals open, also predicted yesterday that economic problems were much more than arguments over the Middle East peace process, putting the coalition at risk.

Gadaffi plot leak inquiry ordered

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The disclosure of a secret United States plan to topple Colonel Gadaffi, the Libyan leader, has not necessarily derailed it. Administration sources were reported as saying yesterday. But President Reagan, angry at the publication of information likely to embarrass him in the Middle East, has ordered an immediate investigation to find the source of the leak to *The Washington Post* at the weekend.

The Post said Mr Reagan signed a document last month authorizing the Central Intelligence Agency to start a covert operation against Colonel Gadaffi, regarded here as a dangerous sponsor of worldwide terrorism. The Libyan leader was to be lured into a situation where his enemies in the Libyan armed forces could mount a coup or a pretext would be given to pro-Western neighbouring states to take military action against Libya.

Congressional sources said members of the House Intelligence Committee - the suspected source of the leak - had questioned the plan.

The White House has refused to confirm or deny details of the alleged operation against Colonel Gadaffi, and it is not known if the CIA had started to carry it out or which other countries were involved.



Mrs Winnie Mandela and her son-in-law, Prince Thumbumuzi Dlamini, arriving at a Cape Town hospital yesterday to visit her husband, Mr Nelson Mandela, the jailed African National Congress leader, who is recovering from a prostate operation.

US clergy prosecuted

Refugee sanctuary movement attacked

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

In its first large-scale attempt to discourage the sanctuary movement, which gives shelter to thousands of refugees from Central America, the US Government is this week prosecuting leading members of the movement.

The case is seen as a classic confrontation between law and conscience, and between religion and the state. Passions are running high.

More than 250 churches have become part of the informal movement since it started four years ago. They run a kind of "underground railway" which so far has transported and sheltered more than 3,000 refugees.

The Government has viewed the church's activities with increasing concern. The trial of 11 sanctuary activists in Tucson, Arizona, is seen as a trial of the movement itself.

The activists, who include a Protestant minister, two Roman Catholic priests, a nun and six church lay workers, face 67 charges of smuggling illegal aliens. Government prosecutors have successfully argued before the judge that questions of religious motivation and conditions in Central America cannot be used by the defence.

The Government is prosecuting this as a straightforward smuggling case and one of its lawyers says: "Merely because defendants wear clerical garb they have no greater or no lesser rights than anyone else."

The Government insists that people helped by the sanctuary movement are merely economic refugees and have no right to stay in the US. The sanctuary movement says its motives are humanitarian and that people it helps, many of them from El Salvador and Guatemala, meet the conditions of the 1980 Refugee Act in having "the well founded fear of persecution" in their native lands.

But the rules are tough. A teacher from El Salvador, who had been tortured, was refused asylum this year on the grounds that kidnapping and torture are not confined to one group but endured and perpetrated by all.

Much of the Government's evidence was collected by informers.

The Reagan Administration sees the sanctuary movement as a challenge to its Central American policy. It wants to show that the political climate in El Salvador is improving, and its aims would not be helped if large numbers of Salvadoreans were granted asylum.

In defiance of the Government, a number of cities have declared themselves places of sanctuary for refugees. They say that as far as possible within the law city employees will not assist immigration agents hunting illegal immigrants from Central America. They say they are challenging the Government to uphold American traditions of helping the oppressed.

Mother refuses to testify at Sinai shooting inquiry

From Our Correspondent, Jerusalem

Egypt has invited three eyewitnesses to last month's shooting of seven Israelis on a Sinai beach resort to testify tomorrow to a committee investigating the incident. Two of them, the mother and brother of a girl aged 10 who died when an Egyptian border guard opened fire, have refused to attend.

Israel has been pressing Egypt for a report on the tragedy because it considers it important questions need to be answered about what happened before it can begin to thaw the "cold

peace" between the two countries.

So far, three attempts by Israel diplomats in Cairo have failed to get things moving, but President Mubarak, who at first dismissed the shooting as "a small affair, a local incident", now appears to have started an inquiry.

Evidence is being taken at Nuqba, the nearest Egyptian town to Ras Burka, where the shooting occurred on October 5.

Those invited include a lawyer, Mr Gera Cohen, who has emerged as an unofficial spokesman for the tourists.

Lebanese 'martyrs' lose impact

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Only in Lebanon could the suicide bomber become *de jure*. Yet even the Lebanese press is beginning to put the "martyrs" of the resistance in the lower half of the front page, and today's editions of the Beirut dailies are expected to place Ammar El-Asr's sacrifice in perspective.

According to the Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP), he rammed a car packed with explosives into an Israeli military convoy yesterday in a suicide attack in southern Lebanon. The Israelis said El-Asr had been killed by their own militiamen and the Lebanese drew their own conclusions.

For three months now, the suicide bombers of Lebanon have failed to achieve much military success in their attacks on Israel and its proxy militia forces in the south of the country. Only on Sunday, a woman riding a donkey that was loaded with a bomb was apparently captured by Israel's "South Lebanon Army" gunmen.

So the anti-Israeli groups in Beirut have grown a little shy of premature victory celebrations.

Yesterday's bomber, Ammar El-Asr, was identified by the SSNP, which has carried out four suicide attacks since June, as a 24-year-old Syrian who died when he detonated 660lb of TNT in his Volvo Sedan against the side of the convoy, setting four Israeli jeeps on fire and blowing up an Israeli tank. An Israeli statement said later that El-Asr had been killed when South Lebanon Army militiamen fired at his car and blew it up.

Zia backs Mubarak over PLO

From Alice Brinton, Cairo

President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan yesterday ended a three-day official visit to Egypt, the first by a Pakistani leader in 20 years. President Zia played an important role in Egypt's re-admission to the Islamic Conference last year and his visit has come when Egypt is stepping up its contacts with moderate Arab countries to give impetus to peace talks with Israel.

President Mubarak and President Zia discussed several issues including the Iraq-Iran war, and the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. On Saturday at a dinner President Zia endorsed President Mubarak's statement that the best way to a peaceful solution in the Middle East was a United Nations-sponsored conference with the participation of the PLO.

President Mubarak had reiterated Egypt's stand that the PLO must be a full and responsible participant in peace talks. The US and Israel, meanwhile reject PLO participation.

● Bhutto challenge: General Zia responded to an election call from opposition leader Miss Benazir Bhutto by saying chivalry prevented him from challenging a lady (Reuters reports).

He said he had been unaware of her departure for Europe after two months under house arrest in Pakistan.

Miss Bhutto, leader of the banned Pakistan People's Party, said in a written statement before she left Karachi that General Zia should run against her in a free election after she is allowed to return in about three months.

Guatemala poll heads for presidential run-off

Guatemala City (AFP) - The Christian Democratic leader, Señor Vinici Cerezo, received almost 40 per cent of the votes in yesterday's presidential elections, but will have to fight a run-off with Señor Jorge Carpio, the head of the National Centre Union, provisional results showed yesterday.

Of the 500,000 votes counted - a quarter of the total - Señor Cerezo obtained 194,266 and Señor Carpio 103,952, slightly over 20 per cent, the Supreme Electoral Court reported.

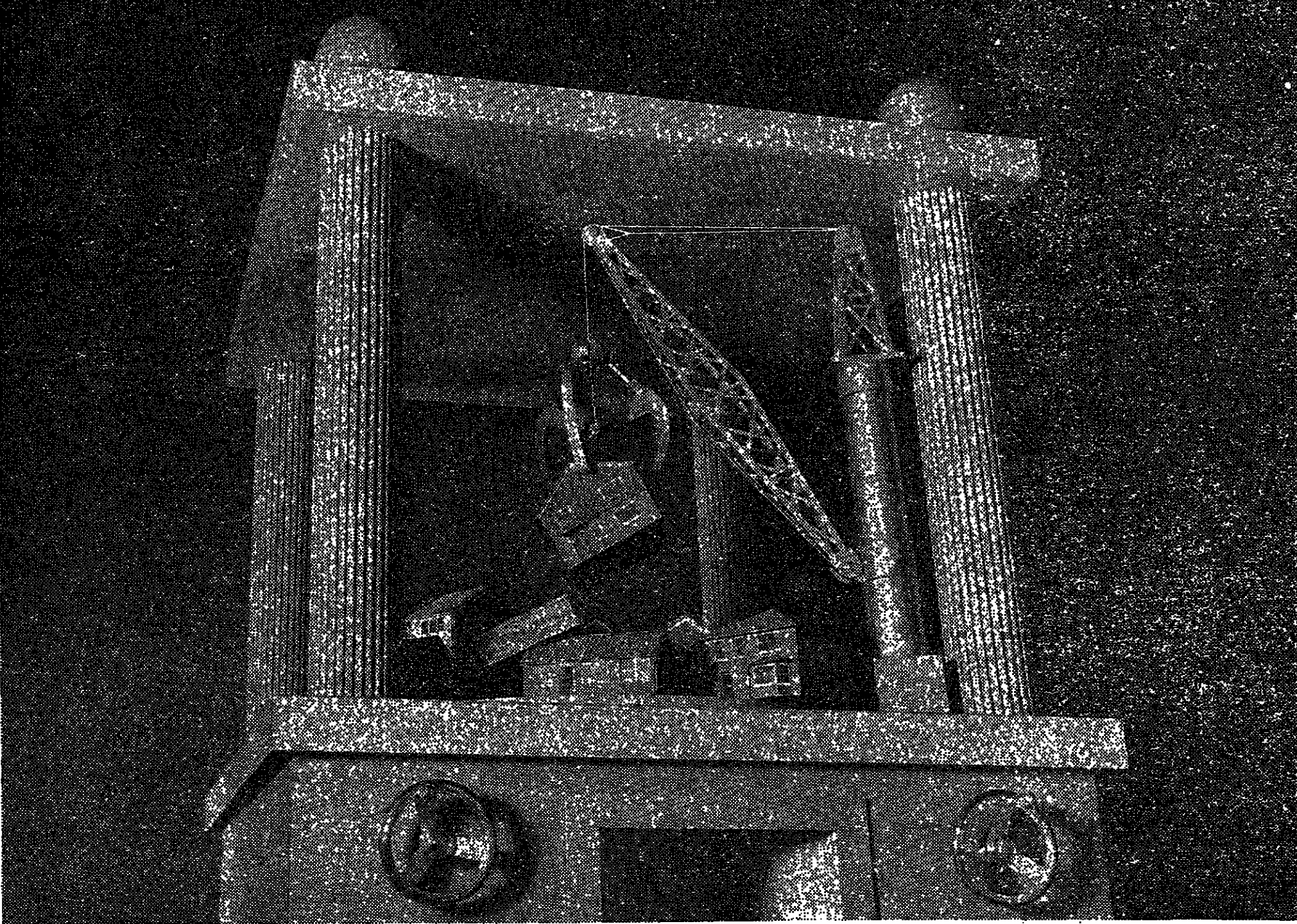
The trend is expected to continue, with none of the

candidates obtaining more than the 30 per cent majority required by the constitution. The run-off election will be held on December 8.

The court reported a 73 per cent turnout in yesterday's presidential, legislative and municipal elections which were compulsory for the country's 2.7 million registered voters.

Señor Jorge Serrano of the Revolutionary Democratic Co-operation Party, who had been seen as a dark horse in the election, got nearly 14 per cent of the votes.

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Philippines leader bows to pressure and calls January election

From Paul Routledge, South East Asia Correspondent

President Marcos yesterday bowed to domestic and overseas, notably United States, pressure and announced early elections in the Philippines. The Presidential poll on January 17, in which Mr Marcos will be the leading candidate, has been called more than 15 months early.

With a 16-year-old communist insurgency by the Maoist New People's Army gaining ground, the election is certain to take place against a background of violence and intrigue.

President Marcos ended months of speculation by announcing the poll before a meeting of supporters in Tarlac, the home town of his murdered political opponent, Benigno Aquino.

Opposition leaders who have been waiting for such a step, nonetheless were taken by surprise and held a hurriedly arranged meeting of their national unification committee to set in motion the selection process for a "single list" or unity candidate to stand against the ailing but astute 68-year-old president.

The two leading contenders are ex-Senator Salvador "Don" Laurel, aged 54, president of the United Nationalist Democratic Organization (Unido) and Mrs Corason Aquino, aged 52, widow of the opposition leader killed at Manila airport two years ago.

The issue at the heart of the most critical election in South East Asia for many years is not in doubt. As the President himself insisted yesterday: "The issue is Marcos."

President Marcos came to power in 1965 and was re-elected in 1969. He ruled by martial law from 1972 to 1981 and retained the presidency in an election that year amid widespread charges of malpractice.

His presidency has become increasingly shaky since the economic collapse that followed the killing of Mr Aquino on his return from political exile at Manila airport in August 1983.

A flight of foreign capital fuelled political discontent at home and promoted growing doubts about the Marcos regime in Washington.

The US is particularly concerned that failure to halt the insurgency will place at risk its sea and air bases at Subic Bay and Clark in the central island of Luzon.

President Reagan sent a personal envoy, Senator Paul Laxalt, a Republican in Manila only last month to seek urgent military and social reforms to end the unrest and the growing support for the communist uprising.

President Marcos gave his reply yesterday arguing that the election would "erase doubts about the popularity and effectiveness of my Administration."

He is to introduce a presidential decree varying the 1973 constitution so that he can stand for office without resigning - a step that brought an immediate storm of criticism from the opposition.

The President has promised to allow outside independent observers at the election, including US politicians.

President Marcos is clearly relying on the chronic disunity of the Opposition to deliver him another six-year term. He has variously guessed his chances of winning at between three and nine to one in favour.

Mrs Aquino has rated poorly in opinion polls. But her supporters are busily engaged in seeking one million signatures to "draft" her, arguing that only she has the popularity among the poor and the dispossessed to beat Mr Marcos.

Former Senator Laurel has already been picked by Unido as its standard bearer in any presidential contest and will take some persuading to stand down in favour of the less experienced but undisputedly more charismatic Mrs Aquino.

The shadow of the trial of the armed forces chief, General Fabian Ver, and 25 others for complicity in the killing of Mr Aquino will hang over the campaign. A verdict is due in late December.

Second Iran? page 14



Zimbabwe schoolchildren at their desks. Primary school rolls have almost trebled since independence but the education system has failed to develop skills needed in backward areas and increased the drift to the cities.

Rise in education misses need for rural development

In the second of two articles on social conditions five years after independence JAN. RAATH, Harare correspondent, describes how ambitious expansion is straining the education system.

The latest controversy vexing Zimbabwe's education system is what to do with pupils at the end of primary school who fail their final examinations. The practice of automatically pushing them through year by year to O-level has been accepted as futile.

Mr Dzimal Mutumbuka, the Minister of Education, in September announced that the process of screening pupils at grade seven, the last year of primary school, would be reintroduced to weed out those incapable of coping with secondary school. The system was dropped soon after independence when the Government of Mr Robert Mugabe embarked on an enormous expansion programme that now has the education system bursting at the seams.

Increases in the pupil population since independence have been dramatic. The number of primary school children has climbed from 820,000 in 1979 to 2.2 million last year while secondary school enrolment has gone from 66,000 in 1979 to 498,000 this year.

The number of schools has grown from 2,500 in 1979 to 5,450 this year, the bulk of them built in remote rural areas by the parents who themselves mould and bake the bricks and supply cement and furniture from a minimum levy of £3 a year per pupil.

The teacher population, full and part time, has soared from 22,000 in 1979 to 73,800 now. Two new large teacher training colleges have been built while the pre-independence enrolment has doubled to a trainee population of 11,200.

The effect has been certainly to change the face of the country's largely peasant population, whose children (making up roughly 50 per cent of all Zimbabweans) are now literate and numerate.

But problems that are considerably more than biceps bedevil the system.

Largely thanks to the promotion to secondary school of pupils with the seven to 10 grades, only 33 per cent of the 67,000 pupils who sat passed their Cambridge O-level examinations in 1984.

Some 90,000 children are dropped into the labour market each year with an education that is widely agreed, will

snit only the small number looking for white collar jobs. The system does little to boost the skills needed for the development of the retarded communal areas and swells the drift to the cities.

Overcrowding is severe, with 41 pupils per class last year. Some rural schools have an average of up to 60 per class.

In most schools, one set of pupils occupies the classrooms in the morning, and then moves out at midday to make way for another set. For many, the

SOCIAL CHANGE IN ZIMBABWE PART 2

morning shift have to hold their later classes under the trees so that the afternoon shift do not have to go home at dusk. In some schools, teachers take both morning and afternoon shifts.

Of the total teacher population, 32 per cent are estimated to have no training and little experience. To overcome this the Government has embarked on a four-year programme, dubbed Zintec, which includes two years of theory and teaching in supervised conditions for the remaining 10. But, a senior ministry official remarked with caution: "There is a danger that in our efforts to increase numbers of teachers, we sacrifice quality."

Following Mr Mutumbuka's announcement on the reintroduction of screening, Mr Mugabe quickly gave an assurance to parents that their children would not simply be dumped. "Every child will be given the chance to complete secondary education, even if it takes five years," he said.

Behind the assurance, say ministry sources, lies a re-examination of the country's entire education system. It is specifically the O-level results and dissatisfaction with an essentially academic and Eurocentric system that has prompted the recently initiated review.

A hint of things to come can be seen in a new secondary school science syllabus to be introduced in 1987, which experts here believe will be approved. The syllabus puts technology very firmly first, leaving the pupils to dig the science out of it later, said one of the initiators of the scheme.

Concluded

Spain stirs up fishing controversy again

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Señor Manuel Marín, who will be one of Spain's two EEC Commissioners from January, has stirred up controversy again over Spanish fishing as members of the Commons committee on European legislation arrive in Madrid for talks.

After the initial six-year transition period Spain will no doubt be giving a lot of orders on EEC fishing matters," he said.

The two-day visit to Spain by 13 British MPs is to explain Westminster's vetting procedure for proposed EEC legislation and examine how Spain will manage once it has become a member. They are

due to meet Señor Marín, who was publicly named for the Brussels post by Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister.

The large Spanish fishing fleet, widely regarded as aggressive and undisciplined, which caused problems during entry negotiations, is likely to come under discussion. Señor Marín made his comments in Galicia, one of Spain's chief fishing regions where he is helping the Socialist Party's regional campaign in the election.

In his Galicia speech he complained about what he saw as the "excessively Anglo-Saxon mentality of the present Community."

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Pakistan: Sher Muhammad Mangrio

By Caroline Moorehead

Sher Muhammad Mangrio was a student at Sind University and a leading member of the Democratic Student Federation when, in March 1981, he was arrested in Jamshoror.

After martial law had been declared in Pakistan in July, 1977, political parties and activities had been banned: Mr Mangrio and two other students arrested the same day were charged with possession of posters and pamphlets, said to be objectionable.

The three young men were detained for 17 months before being tried in August, 1982, by a special military court in Hyderabad. Each was sentenced to seven years imprisonment, and 10 lashes.

Mr Mangrio is now believed to be in the Central Prison, Khairpur.



Mr Mangrio: student leader at Sind.

Prince not suited to break-dance

From Stephen Taylor Sydney

The emphasis was on youth as the royal visit to Australia entered its second week yesterday. The Prince of Wales declined an invitation to join in a strenuous display of break-dancing, but later joined the Princess of Wales in attending a "Rocking with the royals" pop concert.

It was while visiting a youth centre for the unemployed in Melbourne that the prince was invited by David Ella, aged 17, to join the floor gyrations. "I can't, I'm wearing a suit. And not in front of the media," the prince said.

The royal couple also met teenage cyclists who have raised \$A8,000 (about £4,000) for Ethiopian famine victims, and visited a child-care centre before heading off to the Melbourne concert hall.

Apart from the little affair of the confidences leaked from a media reception, the tour so far has gone as well as the organizers of Victoria's 150th anniversary celebrations - who invited the royal couple - dared to hope. There have been echoes of the 1983 tour success and Australians have let it slip yet again that under their crust of pugnacious egalitarianism there is a streak of passionate royalism.

The prince and princess have another two days in Victoria. Today they are to attend the Melbourne Cup, highlight of the racing season and arguably of the sporting year. The prince will present trophies. Tomorrow they fly to Canberra for a round of engagements with Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister.

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Trade-off denied by Lange as row blazes over Rainbow trial

From Richard Long, Wellington

A political storm blew up in New Zealand yesterday after the Rainbow Warrior court hearing, which had been expected to reveal details of French secret service activities in the country, ended in minutes with reduced charges against the defendants.

The Prime Minister, Mr. David Lange, denied that the Government had been involved in any political trade-off with France in reducing the murder charges against the two French secret service agents, Captain Dominique Prieur, aged 36 and Major Alain Mafart, aged 34.

By pleading guilty to manslaughter, the defendants were arrested shortly after the bombing of the Greenpeace protest ship Rainbow Warrior on July 10 - rapidly ended the hearing.

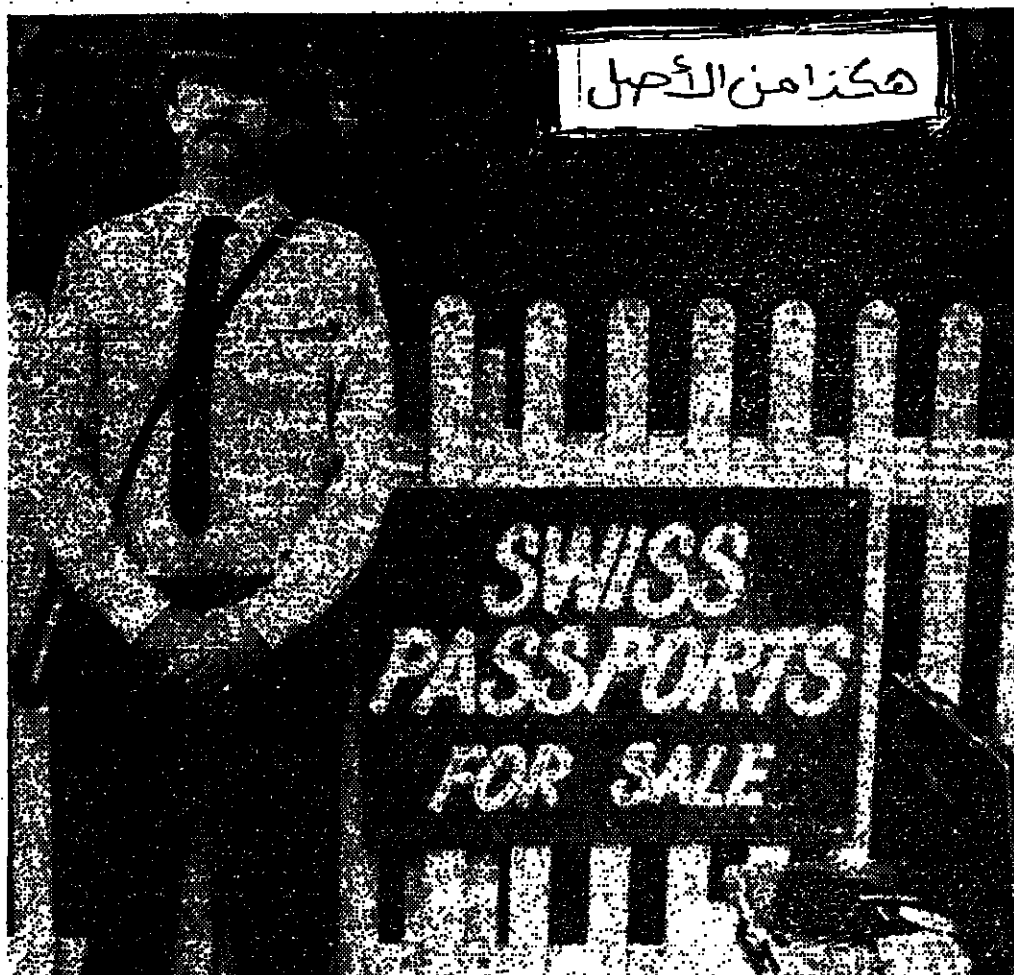
There was uproar in the reporters' room at the Auckland court when French reporters, expecting a trial of nearly a month, with detailed evidence, realized the hearing had ended.

Judge Ron Gilbert committed Prieur and Mafart for sentencing in the Auckland High Court on November 22 after they admitted manslaughter in the death of Rainbow Warrior crew member Fernando Pereira, and of willfully damaging the ship with an explosive.

The New Zealand Opposition justice spokesman, Mr. Paul East, described the development as "astonishing" and said it had all the hallmarks of a government backdown.

He called for a public assurance that the government had not "struck a deal" over the reduced charges. "There is widespread public suspicion that there has been some behind-the-scenes dealing."

But the Attorney-General and Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Geoffrey Palmer, said: "There have been no bargains and no deals. . . . The courts in New Zealand are independent of the executive arm of government."



An Auckland man, dressed as a gendarme, mocking the way two French agents entered New Zealand on false Swiss passports outside the court where they appeared.

Seoul students storm US centre

Tokyo - South Korean students stormed into the American Chamber of Commerce in Seoul yesterday to protest against America using Korea as a "scapegoat" for its economic problems (David Watts writes).

About 15 students took over the offices on the third floor of the Chosun Hotel shortly before noon and plastered the windows with slogans and graffiti. Last February students occupied the American Cultural Centre 50 yards away.

Anti-American sentiments are now fairly common in Korea even in the Government because of American handling of its trade deficit with Korea and its filing of two complaints about allegedly unfair trade practices.

Border key issue in Sino-Indian discussions

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

A 14-member Chinese delegation arrived in Delhi yesterday to resume discussions with the Indian Government on improving relations. While the discussions will cover cultural affairs and scientific and technological co-operation, the key issue will be the disputed boundary, which 28 years ago caused a bitter war.

An Indian spokesman said last night the talks in the subcommittee dealing with the boundary would move today to "substantive issues, opposed to principles which were settled last year."

The feeling in Delhi, however, is that talks at the official level cannot reach a final settlement yet. What is necessary is a political decision, which so far has not been made. "We need to decide whether we need a settlement . . . yet . . . and what price we are prepared to pay for it," an Indian diplomatic expert said.

The attitude of Indian leaders now appears to be rather more pliant than in previous years. A meeting of the parliamentary consultative committee at the end of last week discussed the boundary situation in much more amenable terms than were used in 1962, when a parliamentary resolution insisted that not an inch of the territory lost to China in the fighting should be regarded as alienated for ever.

Rebel government set up in Uganda

Nairobi (Reuter) - Ugandan rebels yesterday announced the setting up of a formal administration in areas they control as they resumed peace talks with the country's military Government.

Diplomats said the rebel move would dampen prospects for an early settlement at the talks in Nairobi.

The National Resistance Army (NRA) said it had established an interim administration in "liberated zones", mainly in south western Uganda, "to provide services pending an agreement with the junta in Kampala". Mr Yoweri Museveni, the NRA leader, said in a press statement that 17 departments dealing with matters such as finance, education and minerals had been set up and 13 district officers appointed.

Kaji Musa Kigongo, described as a "veteran freedom fighter" and chairman of the NRA's inner council, was appointed chief administrator. Last week President Moi of Kenya, chairman of the negotiations to end decades of bloodshed in Uganda, said that tremendous progress had been made and that prospects for a settlement were good.

The NRA, which, with three smaller rebel groups, fought four years of bush war against the government of deposed Ugandan President Obote, is demanding a major role in government following the army coup in July.

The fourth round of talks opened on October 28 and adjourned on Wednesday.

Mr Museveni: Still seeking Kampala deal.

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THE WORLDWIDE WELCOME

Australian wage-fixing threatened

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

Australia's centralized wage-fixing system, the basis of industrial relations under the present Labour Government, appeared at risk last night after a threat by employers to withdraw in protest at what they described as "rubber stamping" of agreements between the Government and the trade unions.

The Confederation of Australian Industry made this announcement yesterday, soon after the full board of the Arbitration Commission agreed the full 3.8 per cent national wage rise claimed by union leaders.

The Government, which in September successfully re-negotiated a two-year extension of its prices and incomes accord with the unions, the central feature of its economic policy, welcomed the award.

But the Confederation of Australian Industry said it would discuss on November 29 a resolution that the commission had compromised its independence, and would seriously consider withdrawal. It is the first time the employers have made such a threat.

Cambodia proposals under study

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

South-East Asian governments yesterday studied new suggestions by Vietnam for a negotiated settlement of the Cambodia conflict, as the UN General Assembly began its annual debate of the issue.

Thai officials privately dismissed the latest Vietnamese statements as "a propaganda stunt to influence the UN vote later this week, when member states are expected to endorse overwhelmingly a resolution calling for Vietnam's withdrawal from Cambodia."

Diplomats of some other members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean), however, say their governments wish to study the latest proposals carefully, in particular a Vietnamese assurance that the Government of President Heng Samrin in Phnom Penh is ready to talk directly to all sections of the Cambodian resistance, including the Khmer Rouge.

The only condition set by Mr Vo Dong Giang, Minister of State, is the exclusion of the most notorious of the former Khmer Rouge rulers, Pol Pot and Heng Sary.

World congress in Delhi

Sexologists gather on infertile soil

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

Six hundred sexologists have gathered in Delhi for a sexually unilluminating event. India these days is a repressed society, and the World Congress of Sexology is not being held on very fertile soil.

One of the smart new hotels in south Delhi is hosting the event. Experts from Miss Shere Hite, of the Hite Report fame, to Dr John Bancroft, of Edinburgh's Medical Research Council unit on reproductive biology, will be discussing topics ranging from orgasm to transsexualism, and from women's sexual rights to a sexologist's sex life. There are also papers on sex and drugs, sex and yoga, sex and history, sex and astrology, and a more mundane analysis of sexual response and sexual distinction.

These topics may not get widespread publicity in India itself, where sexual matters tend to be discussed in hushed tones or behind closed doors. Kissing on cinema screens is disapproved; public nudity or toplessness for Indian women is taboo. Even quite modest displays of affection, such as holding hands for a walk through the park, are frowned on.

Professor Prakash Kothari, president of the host organization, the Indian Association of Sex Educators, Counsellors

and Therapists, is the first to admit that the repressed state of Indian society is a forcing house of myth and misconception on sexual matters.

With a population of more than 700 million, India has only one department of sexual medicine - in Bombay - and a serious problem of birth control.

"If sex education was more widespread, family planning would be more acceptable", Dr Kothari said.

It is a curious irony that the sexual reticence of Indian society is in strong contrast to the attitudes of the *Kama-Sutra*, the sex manual written 1,600 years ago in India. Written in Sanskrit by a priest and saintly sage, Mallanga Vatsyayana, the *Kama-Sutra* foreshadowed a good deal of modern day sexual teaching, according to Dr Kothari.

India's present repression is put down firmly to the morals of the British era. Mr H. K. L. Bhagat, the Minister for Tourism, who spoke at the congress yesterday, blamed "the Victorian era".

"Children unwittingly become victims of myths and misconceptions. Scientific sex education is a must," he said, which, for a senior Indian government official, was quite a dramatic statement.

THE ARTS

Galleries

When urbanity ruled people and places

Great Cities in the
19th Century
Fine Art Society

Society Portraits
Colnaghi/Clarendon

Philip Wilson Steer
Browse and Darby

Maurice Denis
JPL Fine Arts

"My dear, the noise and the people!" as the general observed of the battlefield. Admittedly the noise of the city is the one element left to our imagination in the Fine Art Society's exhibition of Great Cities in the 19th Century (until November 29), but it is almost palpable. Society Portraits, at Colnaghi and the Clarendon Gallery until December 14, brings in the people with a vengeance - not, you understand, the People in some Marxist sense of the term, but all the Right People, the people who counted between 1850 and 1939. In either show, urbanity rules.

With cities, it depends rather what image the term conjures up. Few of the painters shown at the Fine Art Society seem to have set out with some kind of romance of city life before them as an ideal. Heinrich Totomec, perhaps, in his splendid view of *The Admiral Tegethoff Monument with the Ferriswheel in the Riesenrad Fairground, Vienna*, which captures perfectly the feeling of night falling and a large and fashionable crowd out for pleasure. Eugene Lami manages to suggest the dash and glamour of mid-century London in a very small compass in his *Trafalgar Square from Pall Mall*, and John O'Connor's *St Pancras Hotel and Station from Pontonville Road, Sunset* is the most romantic picture imaginable of the way the Victorians felt about the urban development going on all around them.

In general painters of more northerly cities like Edinburgh, Stockholm or St Petersburg seem to be more emotive and ally attuned to life on a large scale and to thrusting themselves and us into the midst of the hurly-burly. Further south, they like to step back and look at their subjects from the safe distance of a neighbouring hill, as in John Brett's almost photographic panorama of *Florence from Belvedere* or Ferdinand Stadenmann's 10-part panoramic lithograph of Athens in 1832, where the

city itself is lost somewhere in the middle. Or they move into medium close-up, so that you do not know from the picture itself whether you are in a city or a village.

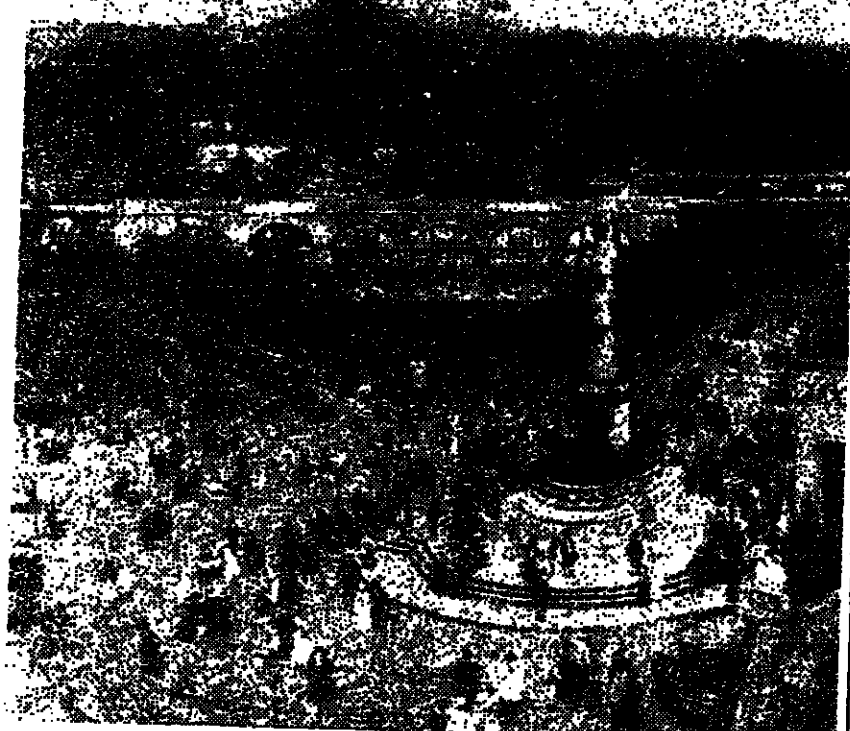
Society painters, now, never leave you in much doubt that you are in the presence of rich and important people. That, after all, is what they were there for: to reassure the aristocratic that they were just as good as their illustrious forebears (Sargent, for example, painted several rivaling portraits to classic depictions of ancestors) or to assert the perfect right of the newly rich and titled to be where they were, as though they had always belonged. What is mirrored in the *Society Portraits* show is not so much, in their turn-of-the-century heyday, the secure Establishment of popular legend, supremely confident of its rights and privileges and of their permanence, but rather a society all too subject to change and aspiring, even to shrillness, that this is not so. Later on, that can even come to look suspiciously like whistling in the dark.

Which is all the better for the society portrait as art - better, certainly, than genuine complacency would be. Just round the corner from the Academy's German show, one cannot but remember that, however eagerly they sought to disfigure it, the Edwardian portraits were living in the same world as the first Expressionists, and Sargent was actually seven years younger than Rothlis, who began his career painting rather like Alma-Tadema.

Sargent remains the great exponent of the society portrait because he was a brilliant technician and a shrewd psychologist, and because, coming as he did from much the same American background as the rich who were enthusiastically marrying into the British aristocracy, he shared their unashamed enjoyment of all the trappings. Yet even in Sargent there is this nervous quality just beneath the surface: it is always, sensible, and sometimes unavoidable, to ask in each case "What is he trying to prove?"

Interestingly, the other figure to emerge as major in this show, Sir James Jebusa Shannon, was also American, though we tend to forget it, as we tend to forget him, thinking of him these days as just the wrong Shannon, the one who was not the other half of Shannon-and-Ricketts. In his own time he was regarded as a very serious rival of Sargent, and here one can see exactly why, and why he should be of interest in our day.

He was in some respects a more modern painter than Sargent: the splendid 1896 portrait of *Yvonne, Duchess of Rutland*, for instance, shows an awareness of Continental Symbolism that never touched Sargent, but there is also an intensification of the



Evening pleasures: Totomec's *The Admiral Tegethoff Monument with the Ferriswheel in the Riesenrad Fairground, Vienna*

highly-strung quality, as in the group portrait of *The Children of the Eighth Duke of Rutland*, with its restless composition and the charming touch of (luxurious) informality achieved by sitting one of them actually in the Belvoir Castle silver punch-bowl.

Other painters we have been looking at again in recent years - Philip, Orpen, Lavery, Augustus John - figure to advantage, and now that we have reinstated Charles Sargent Jagger as an important sculptor, it might be rewarding to look at Charles's brother David Jagger again, on the strength of a very striking portrait of his wife. A painter of considerably more fame from this period, Philip Wilson Steer, also comes up for reappraisal in a very choice show at Browse and Darby until November 30.

Why does he need reappraisal, you might ask, seeing that there are useful books about him and a handful of his works are always on show prominently at the Tate, whatever else from that period may come and go. But there has been a tendency to make him seem a far less interesting painter than he was by concentrating on cramming him into some sort of specifically English tradition on the strength of his Edwardian landscapes and figure compositions, where he returned to reverence the twin deities of Constable and Gainsborough.

John Russell Taylor

Television

Thrillingly promising pedigree

A good television thriller is very hard to find, but Edge of Darkness (BBC2) promises to be one of the best. It steps into the shoes of the best, *Tender is the Night*, vacillating between a whiff of Schiaparelli and champagne behind, and began with the grim picture of a train transporting nuclear waste through London's dismal White City rail network in slithering rain.

The plot is a standard - a respected detective embarks upon a revenge investigation after his only child is murdered. *Edge of Darkness*, however, is written by Troy Kennedy Martin, who is credited with adding the contemporary bite to the police serial genre in the early days of *Z Cars*, and the series is produced by Michael Wearing, who did *The History Man* and *The Boys from the Blackstuff*. With this pedigree it

seemed unlikely that we would be embarking upon another of those over-extended, over-written cop dramas in which men in cheap suits exchange clichés beside grey filing-cabinets.

Instead we were taken to an anonymous but totally believable police department where the finest officers were swamped by hopeless caseloads. The first third of the programme at least took place in such heavy rain that the viewer could almost feel the drops trickling inside the collar. The events were violent - a girl was killed at point-blank range with a shotgun - and allowed their full impact without over-emphasis.

The central character is played by Bob Peck, who has the gift of looking tragic and

intelligent simultaneously. Much of the mystery was unfolded in complete silence, the story being told entirely visually as the detective slowly sorted through his dead daughter's possessions and realized that her involvement in left-wing politics was considerably more active than he had imagined.

There was humour to lift the gloom, and superb characterization to flesh out the stock situation. By the end of this most promising beginning it became evident that our hero is to move towards the discovery of his daughter's killers at least partly as a puppet of institutional forces and the closing moments had an ominous, Orwellian atmosphere.

Celia Brayfield

Rock

Neville Brothers
Shaw Theatre

New Orleans has Nevilles like Washington has Kennedys and Kent has Cowdrys. Now, standing claims on behalf of the Marsellis clan, the four brothers Neville represent the city's unique heritage of vernacular music at its most pungent and virtuosic. Within them repose the traditions of deviant keyboard virtuosity from Jelly Roll Morton to Professor Longhair, of inspired drummers from Baby Dodds to Zigaboo Modeliste, and of the wonderful crop of postwar rhythm "n' blues and soul singers exemplified by Fats Domino and Lee Dorsey.

All this, and more, was packaged with a rare combination of relaxation, power and warmth by Charles Neville, who plays the alto saxophone with a proud, preaching delivery. Cecil, the percussionist, whose costume evoked New Orleans's voodoo culture. Art, once the pianist with the Meters, and Aaron, an outstanding singer whose exotically detailed falsetto came into its own during "Tell It Like It Is", a classic soul ballad which gave him a big hit in 1966.

Starting a cleverly paced show with a series of sly, insinuating grooves, they moved through attractive arrangements of "Fever", Jimmy Cliff's "Sittin' in Limbo" and Professor Longhair's "Big Chief", each coloured to a different degree by an infusion of the jolting, second-line rhythm characteristic of New Orleans. Of their three auxiliary

musicians, Brian Stolz distinguished himself not merely by looking like Nik Kershaw, but by playing his guitar with the ferocious sweetness of Ernie Isley during the sombre "Ain't No Use".

They began a lengthy sequence of encores by turning "Use the Broadwalk" into a street-corner symphony, and when Aaron let his falsetto loose on "Amazing Grace", drawing whoops and gasps from an entranced audience, he created a tension that was masterfully released in a rousing final medley of "Down By the Riverside", "This Little Light of Mine" and "Amen".

Richard Williams

Pete Townshend
Academy, Brixton

This was a relaxed and generous performance that saw Pete Townshend, rock 'n' roll star turned publishing executive, dispensing with his power chords and any lingering hint of rock-star mystique as he led a 16-piece band through a ragbag collection of Sixties soul and blues, new solo material, jazz-rock shuffles, a few old Who numbers, and anything else that took his fancy.

A yell from the crowd for "Magic Bus" was immediately followed by an impromptu rendering of the song, while the one fan who leapt on stage to touch his idol walked meekly away when it became apparent nobody was waiting in the wings to throw him off.

David Sinclair

Theatre

Lennon
Astoria

Bob Eaton's musical is as factually scrupulous, exhilarating and cheeky as its subject could have wished. The production team clearly recognize that people know too much about him to stand for the usual distortions of show-business biography. What objections it does raise are implied by the title.

John Lennon would never have had a show written about him but for his career as a member of a group. So the show has also to include a condensed history of the Beatles. The job has been done with skill. Everything that matters is there without any narrative congestion; and Clare Vanable's production finds all kinds of ingenious ways to cut corners without causing confusion. The penalty is that, while the boys themselves remain natural and spontaneous throughout, every outsider they meet - from a Hamburg club-owner to Coventry clergy and the staff at the National Theatre - is reduced to an idiot cartoon. Whether this is the effect of compression or provincialism (Lennon originated at the Liverpool Everyman), it is a betrayal of the show's avowed documentary principles.

Otherwise, it lives up to the authenticity of Alison Chitty's opening stage picture: a vast image of the hero looking down on a fetishistic array of rock-music hardware, with a drop-side cot where you would expect



Uprooted star in search of new identity: Jonathan Barlow with Mia Soteriou

to find the star mike. That strikes me as a good Liverpool joke.

Without exception, the boys are brilliantly cast. Martyn Ellis may be on the chubby side for McCartney, but see him sizing up to Lennon in the first trial of talent, or rubbing his eyes and looking the other way in mute embarrassment when Lennon declares that he is leaving the group. It is a company of actor-players; and, when they tear into "Twist and Shout" and "Working Class Hero", it is with Mia Soteriou (alias Yoko Ono) at the piano and Carol Sloman (alias Aunt Mimi) on cello and violin.

There are two Lennons: Mark McGann, who gives an extraordinary look-alike account of the early years, and Jonathan Barlow as the white-suited

elder, beginning as narrator and finally blacked out with the off-stage pistol shot. It is Mr Barlow who dominates the second and better half of the production, where Lennon comes into central focus: an uprooted star in search of a new identity, and working through the radical fashions of the time before settling for bread-making domesticity and a return to music.

The mass of tape-recorded interviews could have drowned the story in drivel (as it sometimes almost does in Yoko Ono's case); but Mr Barlow knows his man, and whatever world-changing phase he is going through you are always aware of the potential thing and the joker who wrote *A Spaniard in the Works*.

Irving Wardle

Concerts

Elgar forging his armoury

LPO/Handley
Festival Hall/Radio 3

The Elgar effect is rolling on a year after his fiftieth anniversary. Between South Bank performances of *The Kingdom* two weeks ago and *The Apostles* last night we were given the chance to catch up on *King Olaf*, the dramatic cantata he wrote in 1894.

As Olaf's Christian mission fades into his encounters with three women, only to end in defeat and death at sea, the story-telling certainly has more about it of the Edwardian "freside nook" than that of the Scandinavian bards. Deliberately eschewing any unifying

Scandiwegian atmospherics, Elgar steps out boldly with the leitmotiv and the first early forgeries of his later armoury. He is happiest when he is required to gird his loins: with the initial conflict of sword and censer and at the end with Truth reaffirmed with all due pomp and circumstance.

This urges him to vigorous and invigorating choral writing. Nothing daunted by the reductive and often risible text, Elgar rises to the "Challenge of Thor" in relentless, ringing trochees and builds with equal power the long tenor solo of "King Olaf's return", a prelude of Gerontius's darker sea-crossing.

But, in the long passages in between, the bulk of the work

lurches along with an orchestral cue a line. And, although the London Philharmonic under Vernon Handley obviously relished the striking orchestration which is the work's great propelling force, little could save the meandering duets set up by Longfellow.

The London Philharmonic Chorus, not quite the virtuoso northern choir Elgar had in mind, sang valiantly. What *King Olaf* really needed was a much stronger trio of soloists than it had in Teresa Cabill, Anthony Rolfe Johnson and Brian Rayner Cook, who features in better voice and better balance I hope, in the forthcoming recording.

Hilary Finch

PJBE

Queen Elizabeth Hall

It is sad news that the trumpet player Philip Jones is to hang up his mutes at the end of this season. But at least his Brass Ensemble (which plans to continue under another name) is playing the master out in scintillating style.

This programme in many ways offered a microcosm of the PJBE's pioneering work over the past 35 years. It opened with Elgar's *Howarth's English Renaissance Suite*, now accorded such classic status by the brass fraternity that one tends to forget how audacious its basic idea is, of turning unassuming virginal pieces to Farnaby and Bull into show-stoppers for 10-piece brass ensemble. This performance's best moment was its quietest: Jones's own plaintive phrasing on flugel-horn of Farnaby's "His Dream".

David Purser's transcription of Weill's *Threepenny Opera* suite was marginally less effective, because, although the technique accomplished was frequently dazzling (especially from the tuba player, John Fletcher, skipping with comic delicacy through the "Ballad of the Easy Life"), the playing style seemed far too wholesome.

Two works written for the ensemble, and receiving first London performances, completed the programme. The Sinfonietta by the Hungarian composer Zoltan Durk used a resourceful palette of "effects", everything from shadowy flutter-tonguing to the (now rather hackneyed) deep-breathing exercise *en masse*. But the Sinfonietta by Howard Blake, though more conservative in idiom and structure, sounded distinctly brasher in conception, with the heter-skelter *nota perpetua* movements cannily balanced by some bluesy "three in the morning" writing.

It certainly seemed more to the taste of the audience, whose rapturous applause was rewarded with an encore of outrageous entertainment value: the "Arrival of the Queen of Sheba".

Richard Morrison

Arditti Quartet
Almeida Theatre

There has been a substantial media build-up to the debut of Richard Armit's oddly but elegantly shaped electric string family, so let me at once dispel any rumours of an impending sonic revolution by saying that the sound they made in Michael Nyman's *Siring Quartet* (1985) held no advantages over conventional instruments other than volume. For all the advanced technology invested

in them, they still lack the variety of higher harmonics - and thus much of the range of character - available to their simpler acoustic cousin.

Nyman's music, though, relies heavily on loudness to make its impact. It is hard to guess whether this quartet, based overtly upon John Bull's "Walsingham" variations and, apparently more covertly, upon Schoenberg's Second Quartet, is intended seriously. If not, the joke is extended well beyond the point where any punch-line might make the wait worthwhile. If so, Nyman's sole achievement is to have created an efficient tool for inducing in his listeners a state of instant cerebral paralysis.

Much else in this recital, the first of four Sunday evenings in which the splendid Arditti

Quartet are giving 18 London premieres, deserved praise. Roger Redgate's Quartet No 2 is a tightly conceived, complex structure, for example, full of lively ideas and sophisticated working: it made, for an effective contrast with the Danish composer Bent Sorensen's more poetic, though equally intricate, *Alman*. And, although Chris Dench's ambitious *Strangeness* did not, perhaps, quite realize the philosophical premise upon which it was founded, Ferneyhough's Second Quartet of 1980, the only work here that had been heard in London previously, compellingly wove its silences and forceful, Xenakis-like sounds together into an alluringly dramatic tapestry.

Stephen Pettitt

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A television guide to the real world

Most people would be happy to see advertising on the BBC, according to a new opinion poll conducted for The Times. David Hewson reports

British television is the best in the world. The licence fee may not be perfect but there is no better way of paying for it. What makes our television unique is the way in which entertainment is mixed with information, amusement with learning. In that peculiarly British system known as public service broadcasting.

How do we know? Easy, that is the judgement of the people who produce British television. And if they don't know what is going on who does?

But let us try an alternative interpretation. British television is not notably "bad", but it is not particularly good either. People have their sets on quite a lot of the time, though not as much as they used to, but they are rarely involved in what is happening on the screen and, in many instances, do other things while they are supposed to be watching.

The public have no clear idea of the concept of public service broadcasting which advertising on the BBC is supposed to destroy. They like television news headlines but are distinctly less keen on quiz shows and sport. Their favourite programme is a re-run of a cinema feature film.

And they are overwhelmingly sick of the television licence fee, much preferring the idea of advertising on the BBC, most of them believing it would give the corporation more money to use in improving its programmes.

How do we know? Well, that's easy too. You just go out and ask the public. The current debate about the direction of British broadcasting is keeping the pollsters busier than a mid-term by-election. The BBC is conducting their own research, as is the Peacock Committee, which is investigating the funding of the corporation. MORI has also conducted a poll on attitudes towards television for The Times. In it, as in the rest of the polls published on the subject recently, there is a common thread of opinion which offers little comfort for the BBC: a strong feeling among the public that advertising is not a better way to fund television, and with it an implicit rejection of the establishment's argument about the threat to public service broadcasting from commercials.

The figures reproduced here match those which pollsters have

been recording over the past 18 months, firm proof that they are not a maverick result.

When one combines The Times poll with other recent research one gains a picture of public attitudes towards broadcasting which is far removed from the debating rooms of the Royal Television Society and other industry lobbies where the great canards in the argument about television's future are put forward.

"In the end, broadcasting is about journalism. That is by far the most important function of television and radio broadcasting. Of course the drama and the music and the quiz shows and the comedy shows are important - they too provide an opportunity for the development of talent and the enhancement of the multi-faceted society in which we live", said the BBC's assistant Director-General, Mr Alan Protheroe, on October 22.

What does the MORI survey show? In terms of type of programme - and not individual broadcasts, which is what the television ratings statistics record - the favourite is a feature film. Since the existing television companies rarely have a role in the production of films, buying them in cheaply at prices reduced by their duopoly of purchasing, one can understand why they do not boast about the popularity of this part of their output.

News analysis and commentaries come far down the list of well-liked programmes, mentioned by only 22 per cent of those interviewed. The item which comes close to last on virtually everyone's list is the televising of Parliament.

Programme preferences show a predictable class bias. Quiz shows, cited as a popular programme by only 28 per cent of those in the ABC1 category, are mentioned by 44 per cent of people in the DE class. The reverse happens with educational programmes, mentioned by 12 per cent of DE respondents and 21 per cent of ABC1s. Frequent viewers show a marked preference for ITV over the BBC's news, 54 per cent of them preferring it to the BBC's 31 per cent. They are also the ones who most favour the abolition of the licence fee and the introduction of advertising on the BBC.

What do these figures mean? One should be wary of extracting



High ratings but are they really liked? From top, soap opera's *Coronation Street* (Patricia Ford); *EastEnders* (Anna Wing); and *Bergerac* (the Jersey-based police crime series) (John Nettles)



Films are what most people enjoy watching (here Olivier and Leigh in *Fire Over England*, Channel 4, Thursday)

definitive statements from them, such as using the last piece of research as the basis of a statement which says: "The more you watch television, the more you think the BBC should carry advertising."

But more general illustrations of public attitudes can be drawn. People do not regard the output of the present system with the kind of regard some television executives would have us believe. It is not as good as it should be, and not as

HOW THE VIEWERS SEE IT

Which of the types of programmes on this list do you particularly like watching on television in the evenings?

	All	Men	Women	ABC1	C2	DE	15-24	25-34	35-54	55+
Films	64	66	63	58	68	70	77	70	65	54
News headlines	57	60	54	61	53	56	45	55	63	60
Documentaries	55	56	54	65	58	37	46	60	58	54
Comedy	50	53	47	48	52	50	71	55	48	37
Serials	41	29	52	40	39	45	44	43	34	45
Plays	37	31	42	41	36	31	27	38	34	43
Quiz shows	35	34	36	28	36	44	29	30	33	43
Sport	34	50	19	33	36	31	36	26	33	36
Royal Events	22	14	29	25	16	22	7	12	20	37
Women's interest	13	3	23	14	12	14	13	15	12	14
Arts	12	13	11	17	8	9	13	14	10	13
Parliament	8	9	7	10	8	5	6	5	8	10

Generally speaking, which do you think does the best job with television news - the BBC or ITN?

	ITN	BBC
All	41	39
Men	40	36
Women	42	41
South (incl. London)	37	38
Midlands	43	38
North	43	40
Scotland	44	38
15-24	50	37
25-34	40	42
35-54	37	36
55+	40	40
ABC1	33	47
C2	45	36
DE	48	31
Heavy viewers	54	31
Light viewers	33	44

How satisfied or dissatisfied would you say you are with the quality of television provided in Britain? (%)

	Very/fairly satisfied	Very/fairly dissatisfied	Neither/no opinion
All	46	45	9
Men	48	43	9
Women	43	50	7
Tory supporters	43	50	7
Labour supporters	43	50	7
Aged 15-24	56	33	11
Aged 25-34	45	45	10
Aged 35-54	40	47	13
55+	45	50	5
Class			
ABC1	48	42	10
C2	45	45	10
DE	43	49	8
Regions			
South and London	44	47	9
Midlands	47	43	10
North	48	44	8
Scotland	42	46	12

Would you favour or oppose the abolition of the TV licence fee and its replacement with commercial advertising on BBC Television?

	Yes	No
All	65	30
Men	66	30
Women	64	30
ABC1	52	42
C2	73	23
DE	74	21
15-24	67	26
25-34	70	27
35-54	68	28
55+	59	36
Tory supporters	58	39
Labour supporters	77	20
Alliance supporters	56	36
South	58	37
Midlands	62	33
North	74	22
Scotland	72	21

Compared with, say, a year or two ago, do you watch more TV, less TV or about the same?

	More	Less	Same
All	15	43	41
Men	14	45	39
Women	16	42	42
ABC1	13	49	37
C2	12	44	44
DE	22	36	42
15-24	14	60	27
25-34	14	39	46
35-54	7	51	41

Films are what most people enjoy watching (here Olivier and Leigh in *Fire Over England*, Channel 4, Thursday)

News was liked by more than half (News at Ten's Sir Alastair Burnet)

Documentaries were the third favourite (*First Tuesday's* Aoko and the Big Shrine Room, ITV tonight)

The most dangerous night of the year?

Twenty million pounds will go up in smoke tonight when 10 million people celebrate with fireworks the 380th anniversary of Guy Fawkes's ill-fated attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament.

For every parent who delights in a child's excitement, there is another who demands the abolition of a pageant which takes a dreadful toll in burns and eye injuries. Killjoys? Or responsible adults decrying a night of danger? Either way, the protest lobby has undoubtedly brought about a remarkable change in Britain's foremost autumn festival.

The horrific 2,026 firework injuries in 1969 persuaded the government that direct action was needed. A persuasive safety campaign followed and the showing of the BBC firework documentary *Remember, Remember*. Parents, alarmed at the risks, gave up their own displays in favour of large, organized celebrations.

The immediate result was a dramatic decrease in the number of accidents, which reached a record low of 575 in 1980. But now there are ominous signs of another increase - last year's nationwide figure was 778 injuries - although this is nothing like the numbers of the 1960s.

Since 1969 the method of calculating the number of accidents and where they took place has changed and certain places have been banned. But figures taken from the



Playing with fire: Britain celebrates its autumn festival

Consumer Affairs safety unit show how accidents declined. In 1969 at private parties there were 701 accidents and a further 211 at small and public displays. In 1975, family parties caused 398 and displays 160. By 1980 this had dropped to 168 at private parties, 47 at small public parties and 95 at large public displays.

Throughout the mid-1970s attendances at organized displays soared and the firework manufacturers, concerned about declining sales, met Alan Williams, then Minister of State

for Prices and Consumer Protection, to discuss safety. Pressure came also from doctors and educationalists and the result was the 1976 Firework Code. The voluntary agreement from members of the Firework Makers' Guild and retail associations introduced restrictions that changed the way we celebrate Guy Fawkes night.

The FMG, now part of the British Pyrotechnics' Association, included most of the big manufacturers such as Brock's Standard and Astra. They agreed to phase out "flying" fireworks such as flying saucers and helicopters and to end the manufacture of popular jumping crackers. It was decided to produce fewer bangers (in 1974 46 million were made) and reduce their explosive content.

Retailers agreed not to display fireworks in shops until three weeks before November 5. Legislation raised the age for buying fireworks from 13 to 16 and increased the fine for letting off fireworks in the street from £20 to £200. But, as shopkeepers continue to point out, judging age is difficult and older children may buy fireworks for younger ones.

Fireworks were increasingly sold packaged or boxed rather than loose which raised the price of a sale. This, combined with inflation, boosted the price of these hand-made, expensive commodities. Pocket money has to be substantial before a child can afford a £5 rocket, a £6 mini-shell or a £4 bazooka flare, some of the items most likely to be sold singly. Cost can not only deter children; the

price of staging a free public display is making scout groups and local authorities look again at the merit of digging further into tight budgets.

Greater Manchester Council will spend £250,000 this year on six 15-minute displays, continuing a tradition set in 1977 at the height of safety awareness, and the Greater London Council will hold similar functions in four parks. Professional pyrotechnicians allow £1,000 for one minute of light and noise.

Expense is forcing parents to abandon their own garden parties, where most accidents happen, and club together for a small, well-organized event run by adults. They are likely to spend £50 for a short burst of noise and colour.

But increased sales of larger and safer Roman candles and flares leaves no room for complacency, warns Michael Howard, Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs. He points out that 65 small children were injured last year by sparklers alone. Holding such fireworks in an ungloved hand, waving it in a friend's face or picking up a Roman candle believed to be unlit cause most accidents.

Although greater public awareness of risks now allows

UK accident figures

	1969	1973	1976	1980
	2026	1249	685	555

Source: Firework Makers' Guild

the London Ambulance Brigade to regard November 5th as just another night, firework reformists keep up the pressure to make Guy Fawkes' night even safer. The National Campaign for Firework Reform would prefer that fireworks should be bought only by adults on behalf of organizations and that trained demonstrators should run displays. Director Noel Tobin points out that fireworks are banned in parts of the USA and safety operators are used in Canada.

The annual extravaganza of November 5 claims 90 per cent of the 100 million fireworks made in Britain. It is for most children the climax of weeks of bonfire building.

"It's like the one event of the year when people can gather together outside and enjoy themselves by looking at a marvellous spectacle", says Harry Smee, marketing director of Brock's.

Suzanne Greaves

CHANNEL FIXED LINK PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Several private sector groups have submitted proposals for the construction of a channel fixed link between England and France.

The French and British Governments have undertaken to decide in principle within the next three months whether or not there should be a fixed link and, if so, which type.

The Secretary of State for Transport would welcome any comments and representations which members of the public and interested bodies care to make about these proposals.

Summaries of the promoters' proposals are available for inspection at the following locations:

- at County and District Council offices throughout Kent.
- at the main public libraries at Dover and Folkestone.
- at the Department of Transport, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1, and government offices listed below.

Wellbar House, Gallowgate, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4TD

City House, New Station Street, Leeds LS1 4JD

Sturley Tower, Piccadilly Plaza, Manchester M1 4BE

Five Ways Tower, Frederick Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 1SJ

Cranbrook House, Cranbrook Street, Nottingham NG1 1ET

Tollgate House, Houlton Street, Bristol BS2 9DJ

Heron House, Goldington Road, Bedford MK40 3LV

Federated House, London Road, Dorking RH4 1SZ

Scottish Information Office, New St Andrew's House, Edinburgh EH1 3TD

Welsh Office, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NQ

Further information can be obtained from individual promoters whose addresses are available from the above offices.

Representations concerning these proposals should be addressed to the Department of Transport, Room S19/02, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB.

Department of Transport

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 792)

ACROSS

- 1 High snooker test (6)
- 2 Baby carriage (4)
- 3 West away (5)
- 4 Pigs (7)
- 5 Remnant (8)
- 6 Sand, clay soil (4)
- 7 Resoluteness (13)
- 8 Tidy (4)
- 9 Discontinue gradually (5,5)
- 10 Attain (7)
- 11 The above (5)
- 12 Seize (4)
- 13 Opponent (6)

DOWN

- 1 Painter's trial (5)
- 2 Welsh/Eng river (3)
- 3 Topping up (13)
- 4 Clot (4)
- 5 Lung sacs (7)
- 6 Deadly nightshade (10)
- 7 Fencing (10)
- 8 Mains (5)
- 9 Dead End (10)
- 10 Lignite (11)
- 11 Stone (11)
- 12 Spurge (11)
- 13 Chat (11)
- 14 Extol (11)
- 15 Flat (11)

SOLUTION TO No 791

ACROSS: 1 Facet 4 Undersap 8 Mains 9 Dead End 10 Lignite 11 Stone 12 Spurge 13 Chat 14 Extol 15 Flat

DOWN: 1 Family 2 Cling 3 Test tube 4 Undergrasses 5 Chat 6 Argyle 7 Redcar 12 Botanist 14 Install 15 Stasis 16 Sturdy 19 Extol 20 Pier

FASHION I by Suzy Menkes

Sweeter than Vita are you...



Fashion has found
a new muse in
Vita Sackville-West.
Her elongated
aristocratic style,
her felt hats and
mannish tweeds are

all the height of fashion this autumn.
A newly-discovered 'correspondence'
reveals the secret of Bloomsbury style

To Virginia Woolf

Sissinghurst Castle
Tuesday 5 November

Ha, ha! Look what I've found. Send back this photograph of you because it is too precious to lose. I like the feet turned out like a duck in your dainty shoes, the cardigan I lent you and the waterfall of lace at your neck. My head is quite swimming with you. No woman cares less for personal appearances, yet wears a rowan red tweed skirt the way you do. But that cloche! It reminds me of going to court with Rosamund. You must throw it immediately in the lake (my argument is purely aesthetic) as I have done with the boys, giving me the liberty to think about you and write for at least half an hour.

Your Vita

To Virginia Woolf

Knole,
Sevenoaks
Thursday 17 June

The intoxication of solitude... All day I clear the weeds, take the puppies for a walk, watch a swallow flying in a fast-paced flight from spinney to spinney. I come out before dinner to read Rilke and think of Tehran, wearing new clothes - slate grey satin and dull gold waistcoat to match the braid on Harold's court uniform. I am baffled by hats, feeling mysterious and brooding under a large brim.

How is your headache? Do take care of yourself.

Your Vita

To Vita Sackville-West

52 Tavistock Square
WC1
Sunday 7 March

Darling Honey. You are an angel, but I didn't mean you to take so much trouble. The pearls are wonderfully aristocratic, glowing with rich fire, grape clustered. I am sitting in an old dress with a hole in it and I am reading Richardson and wearing your pearls.

To Virginia Woolf

Hotel Majestic
Potsdam
Wednesday 11 August

I stand on a balcony overlooking a black lake. I live here entirely in the company of

angels and of obscure but tragic figures from the Italian Renaissance. I should be reading Anna Karenina as I am wearing her hat, which is as dark and beautiful as the waters of the lake and the same circle shape. You once said that you liked to see me stride on fine legs, in a well cut skirt. This is my walking skirt, fine wool, the colour of beech leaves that are hanging off the trees and crackling underfoot. I am spoiled for simpler English beauty.

V.

To Vita Sackville-West

Monk's House,
Rodmell
18 April

Dearest creature. Listen: what am I to do about powder? Once you gave me some which didn't smell... The Sitwells was a ghastly frost. I have bought two yards of pearls at Whitworths, or is it Woolworths, for 6d to wear tonight. Shan't I look nice and quite like other women...

To Virginia Woolf

Long Barn,
Weald,
Sevenoaks
1 December

You've no idea of the intrigues that have been going on here to ensure that we can go riding together. I stalk to the stables, bribe the butler, suborn the stable lads. Why shouldn't we always be free like men to wear plain pin-striped trousers and a waistcoat. (I have stolen Harold's. He is going to Berlin next week and I am in a rage.) The hair scarf I think is quite Byronic. The coat is a Burberry and I shall wear it not only when it rains but for a visit to Oxford where I am to buy another Orlando.

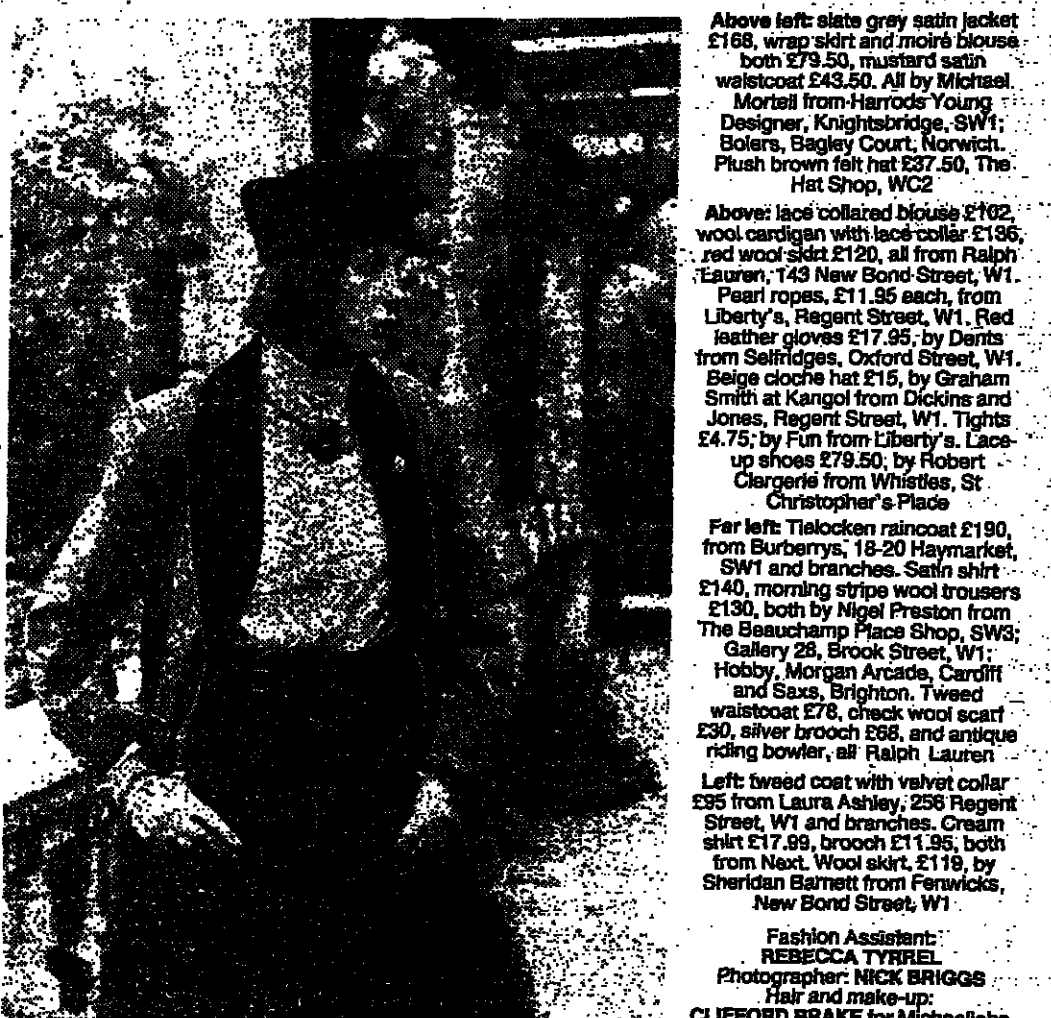
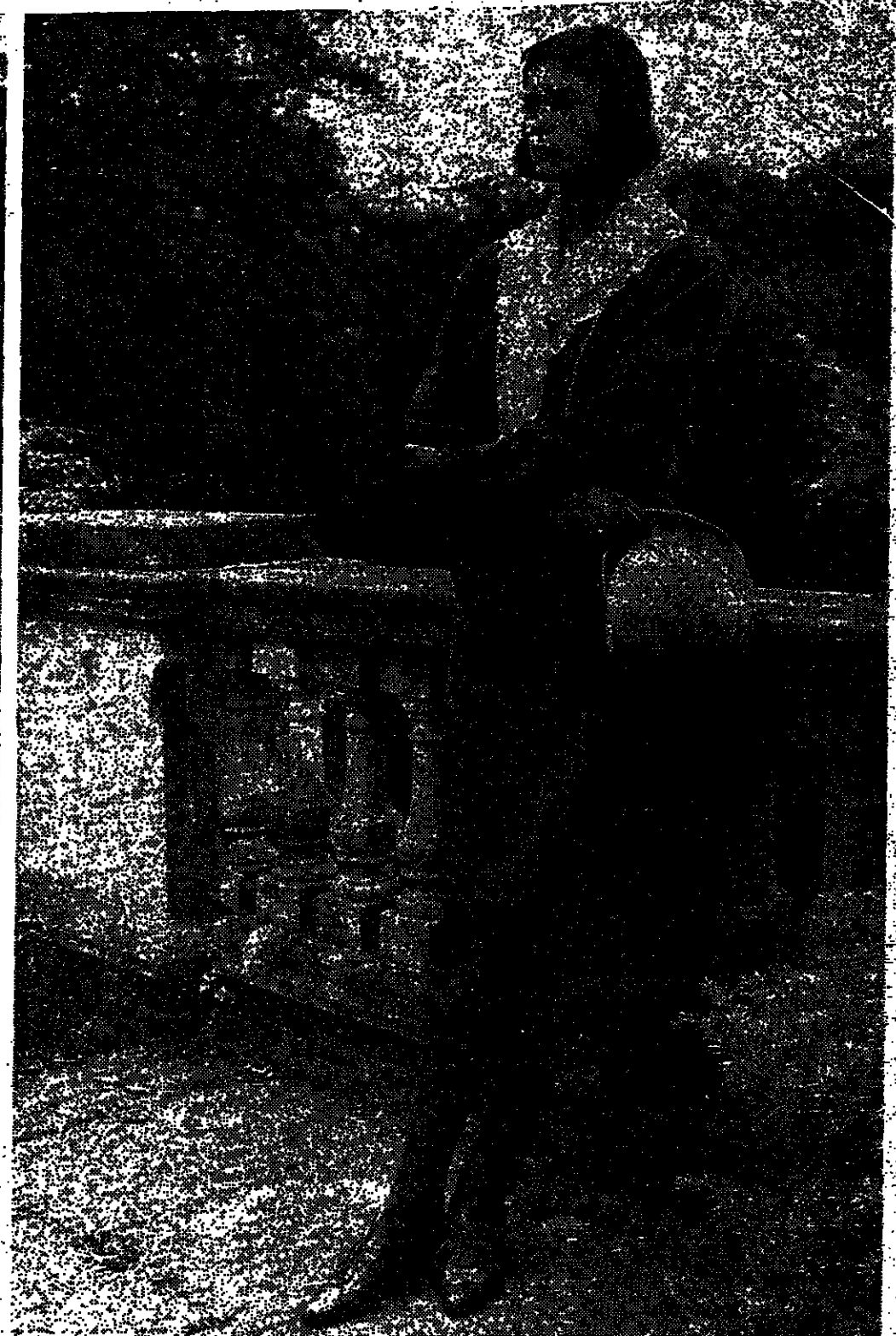
I suppose I can manage to exist until you arrive on Monday, but I am not sure.

Your loving

V.

P.S. Don't say in your high-bred mettlesome way that I am dressed for the horse, when the effect is achieved with the help of a maid and entirely for you.

The genuine version: *Letters of Vita Sackville-West to Virginia Woolf*, edited by Louise De Salvo and Mitchell A. Leaska is available from Macmillan Papermac at £8.95.



Above left: slate grey satin jacket £168, wrap skirt and moiré blouse both £79.50, mustard satin waistcoat £43.50. All by Michael Mortell from Harrods Young Designer, Knightsbridge, SW1; Bolers, Bagley Court, Harwell. Plush brown felt hat £37.50, The Hat Shop, WC2

Above: lace-collared blouse £102, wool cardigan with lace collar £135, red wool skirt £120, all from Ralph Lauren, 143 New Bond Street, W1. Pearl ropes, £11.95 each, from Liberty's, Regent Street, W1. Red leather gloves £17.95, by Dents from Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1. Beige cloche hat £15, by Graham Smith at Kangol from Dickins and Jones, Regent Street, W1. Tights £4.75, by Fun from Liberty's. Lace-up shoes £79.50, by Robert Clergerie from Whistles, St Christopher's Place

Far left: Tielocken raincoat £190, from Burberrys, 18-20 Haymarket, SW1 and branches. Satin shirt £140, morning stripe wool trousers £130, both by Nigel Preston from The Beauchamp Place Shop, SW3; Hobby, Morgan Arcade, Cardiff and Saxe, Brighton. Tweed waistcoat £78, check wool scarf £30, silver brooch £68, and antique riding bowler, all Ralph Lauren

Left: tweed coat with velvet collar £95 from Laura Ashley, 258 Regent Street, W1 and branches. Cream skirt £17.99, brooch £11.95, both from Next. Wool skirt £119, by Sheridan Barnett from Fenwick's, New Bond Street, W1

Fashion Assistant: REBECCA TYRRELL
Photographer: NICK BRIGGS
Hair and make-up: CLIFFORD BRAKE for Michaeljohn

Why Krystle is due for the cold shoulder

It is exactly seven years since the start of shoulder pads. In 1978, Claude Montana and Thierry Mugler between them re-cut the female silhouette and built out our uppers to coathanger proportions.

The public mocked and scorned the "baseball player" shoulder. Shops announced that big shoulders would never catch on, and for six years they were right.

The broad lines remained stubbornly in the orbit of high fashion. You could tell a fashion person by her falsies: arcs of padding curving out like wings from the collar bones. The pads were transferred lovingly from each designer sweater to bolster lesser clothes. Even wimps at fashion parties needed shoulder room.

Men's fashion, as well as women's, began to rely on padding. But men, being endowed by nature with the silhouette of an inverted triangle, have attracted fewer comments. Indeed, it is the androgynous outline of fashion's new woman which excites the sociologists.

Those observers who make a reputation from charting changing hemlines according to economic cycles, have now turned their attention to shoulders. The

FASHION EDITOR'S COMMENT

padding outline, we are told, mirrors society, where women stand shoulder to shoulder with men and thence are the masculine body. The previous fashion bulge in the shoulder-padding business came in the 1940s, when war work put men and women on equal terms.

Fashion's real reason for the success of shoulder pads was their effect on hips. Those women built on natural female curves discovered that the broadened shoulder line gives a slimmer perspective to the hips.

Seven years after the tentatively padded jackets were remastered on store rails, the fashion has finally taken off. A trimmings factory announced proudly last week that its production is running at a million shoulder pads a week for the first time since fashion's sweetheart was Vera Lynn.

So who is the designer who has finally broken the fashion barrier? Why has a seven year slitch finally been sewn up?

The answer lies in the sweet, slow smile and impossibly wide shoulder line of Krystle Carrington. Television has



Broad minded: Dynasty's Linda Evans

the power to persuade where fashion can only propose. The female casts of Dallas and Dynasty have padded out their images and brought shoulder pads into our homes. From Linda Evans's devious Krystle to Joan Collins's sharp-tongued Alexis, the shoulder-pad has been a secret fashion weapon to update traditionally sexist clothes.

Women identify with Krystle. And because she is presented as a vulnerable woman, eyes tremulous with tears, bust swelling beneath the broad shoulder line, her fashion is not seen as threatening to men or anything to do with baseball. Shoulder pads are now accepted on the small screen and in all the big shops.

The fashion world, of course, feels quite differently. Shoulder pads have had a long reign as elite chic.

Last spring, Claude Montana, king of the broad-shoulder line, retreated from the high ground, reduced padding to a minimum or let his women's upper bodies grow naturally out of boat-necked sweaters.

Fashion editors are nervous of predictions. But this one will stick her shoulders out and swear that no one will still be padding them in seven years time. By then, sociologists will be able to prove in retrospect that the decline of feminist philosophies was matched by a reduction in shoulder widths, which reached their widest point in the winter of 1985.

I don't suppose that anyone will believe me. But I know it is true - because I saw it in my Krystle ball.

Angela Gore



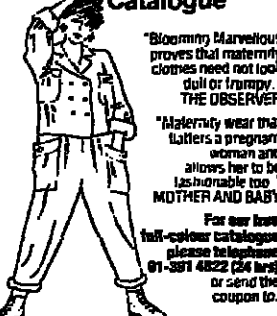
Pure Wool Tartan

skirt - Lindsay (burgundy, navy, etc.) OR MacKellar (olives, browns, etc.) OR Black Watch (navy, green, etc.). Elasticated waist, self belt - length 29" with two inch hem and fully lined polyester taffeta. Veltreen Curdun jacket in burgundy OR navy OR olive green OR brown. Length 28" - self belt. Will machine wash 50% polyester, 50% cotton. Made in our Kent workrooms - delivery from stock or up to 28 days and refunded if unsuitable. 16/34 bust, 24 waist, 36 hips, 13/36b, 26w, 38h, 14/38b, 28w 40h, 16/40b, 30w, 42h, 1 and 18/42h 32w 44h. Jacket £48.00 - Skirt £36.00 ANGELA GORE LTD. Henbury Manor, Elham, Canterbury, Kent - E11ham 582. Stamped address label for free home phone Reg. No. 587512 L. estd in 1957

TOMORROW

Life after divorce: why record numbers are in the queue for marriage guidance

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Above: shawl-collared double-breasted camel cashmere coat by MaxMara £350 from Harrods; Harvey Nichols; Viva, NW8; Lisa Sterling, Manchester; Foxy, Aberdeen. Velvet pouchy beret £53 by Graham Smith at Kangol from Lucienne Phillips, Knightsbridge; The Hat Shop, Hull

Illustrations by
John Babbage

Credit reviewed through a lease/finance house. *Women questions on request. Credit subject to review.

A black and white photograph of a square textile piece, likely a tapestry or rug. The central motif is a large, stylized floral or foliate design, possibly a carnation or a similar flower, rendered in a dark, dense pattern. This central element is surrounded by a wide, decorative border composed of repeating small, dark, star-like or floral shapes on a lighter background. The entire piece is framed by a thin, dark border. The texture of the fabric appears to be a woven or knitted material.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Labour's brush-up

Labour is at last submitting to the TV massacre. With party political broadcasts already produced by former BBC current affairs chief John Gau, Labour's front benchers will this month for the first time enrol for a Gordon Reece-style television training course. Their tutor is to be chirpy BBC freelance Bernard Falk, whose 1982 series *Sin on Saturday* was axed by BBC chiefs after only three episodes on the grounds that it was below standard. "The Tories can afford to be neatly packaged by Saatchi and Saatchi," he says. "It's time the less experienced Labour spokesmen were trained to compete with their confounded and perfumed rivals." There should be no repetition of the rows over payment that beset the Gau contract. Falk believes that training Labour is so vital for democracy that, although not a party member (he voted SDP last time), he is charging only the cost of hiring studios for his mock interrogations. He will even be proffering sartorial tips. Duffel coats can be all right, "but we'll say no to flat caps and Militant badges."

Class struggle

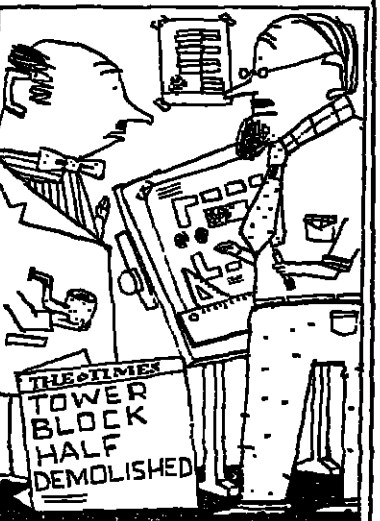
Bilston Community College, Wolverhampton, has just appointed a part-time industrial relations lecturer to teach young shop stewards about trade union organization in industry. The appointee could not be better qualified. It is Derek Robinson, alias Red Robbo, the communist who as union convenor at Longbridge cost British Leyland a fortune in lost production before his abrupt dismissal for disruption in 1979.

● I trust the embattled Prince Charles, a newly-enrolled member of the Architecture Club, has noted its November 22 meeting in his diary. Katharine Whitehorn is to speak on *The Power of the Press*.

Cross

Churchill's personal assistant, Sir John Colville, is being asked to apologize for an inferred allegation of cowardice against the late Richard Crossman, a footnote to Sir John's diaries, published this autumn by Hodder, says of a wartime anti-Nazi propaganda unit: "Crossman was one of its leading lights, thereby avoiding active service." The four words have stung Graham C. Greene, chairman of rival publishers Cape and Crossman's literary executor, to demand a correction in the next edition. "It's an appalling and as far as anyone has heard, an utterly untrue slur," he says. Hodder says they will make no change unless asked to by Sir John. With the diaries, *The Fringes of Power*, already into a third reprint, editor Ian Trevelyan adds: "It all seems to be opinion rather than fact. I'm rather inclined to wait for evidence."

BARRY FANTONI



"Looked at another way, you have instant low-rise housing."

Drawing the line?

Readers of the Conservative party paper, *Newsline*, are puzzled by its failure to publish an obituary of Lord Avon, who died more than two months ago. The admission is particularly strange since he was not only the son of a former prime minister but was himself a junior minister until earlier this year. Cynical souls wonder if it could result from embarrassment over newspaper reports that Avon died from AIDS. "It was to do with the fact there was no paper in August, when he died," says editor Joseph Tobin, who denies that any pressure was brought to bear. So would Avon's memorial service this month be covered? "When is it? Yes, I'll try to get along," he says.

Jerusalem and jam

St Albans now has its own version of the three old ladies who got stuck in the lavatory - three bishops (plus assorted deans and canons) held up in the vestry. A congregation of assorted dignitaries arrived for a service to celebrate the completion of the cathedral's restoration appeal on Saturday afternoon, and waited and waited. Finally a precursor, choking back his mirth, announced that the Bishops of St Albans, Hertford and Bedford were stuck in the upstairs vestry. A verger was then seen carrying an extended ladder in that direction. The Bishop of St Albans, the Rt Rev John Taylor, was on the verge of climbing down it, robes and all, when a battery of churchwardens finally succeeded in freeing the jammed door. As the procession of bishops finally entered the cathedral some 15 minutes late, the congregation burst into applause.

PHS

Shadows of Iran over Manila

by Michael Binyon

Washington
Has increasing US pressure on President Marcos of the Philippines finally paid off? Will his announcement of elections in January stave off revolution? No one hopes so more fervently than President Reagan. For his administration is terrified by the spectre of another Iran in South-East Asia. If Marcos is overthrown by a communist insurgency, the consequences for US policy in Asia and the Pacific are incalculable. Vital strategic, military and political interests are at stake. American officials now regard the situation in the densely populated archipelago as the greatest challenge that US foreign policy faces anywhere in the world, and have been saying so with increasing urgency. Rear-Admiral Lewis Chatham, commander of the US Seventh Fleet battle force, said that a forced US withdrawal from the Philippines would be tantamount to "abdicating the South China Sea to the Soviets." And last week Congress heard that at the present rate the communist rebels would gain the upper hand within three to five years.

In a nutshell, the problem is Marcos. Entrained in power for 20 years, he is the communists' greatest asset and a liability to the US. He presides over a government widely

viewed here as tired, corrupt and inept and that seems incapable of instituting the sweeping reforms needed to redeem the situation. He is clearly sick, appears to live in the past and - at least until now - has been impervious to the cajoling, wheedling and pressure for change from a stream of US emissaries.

The longer Marcos holds out, the greater seems the danger here that his eventual downfall, like that of the Shah, will drag down with him all those associated with his regime. The first victim would undoubtedly be the US. For as with Iran, Washington has a special relationship with Manila. The Philippines was once America's only colony, and has been under US tutelage for several generations. Thousands of American soldiers died in bloody battles on the Philippines during the Second World War. The country is seen as a gateway to the Pacific, and controls vital oil lanes from the Middle East to Japan, as well as being a focal point for all naval activity in South-East Asia.

And, most importantly, the largest US overseas bases, the massive Subic naval station and the Clark air base, are of increasing

strategic importance as the Soviet Union develops its base at Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam.

It is the threat to these bases that makes the problem so pressing. The US has agreed to pay \$900 million for their use over the next five years, and is committed to spending an equally vast sum for their modernization. Already the US joint chiefs of staff have begun considering whether the bases should be moved, and if so where. But the logistics are formidable. And, as one report put it, there are no other countries that could provide US sailors and airmen with similar recreational facilities without causing a public scandal.

The Reagan administration, ever mindful of the example of Iran, is determined to take action before it is too late. Already the communist New People's Army numbers some 16,500, and it is thought there to be only a matter of time before Moscow provides the vital arms and support that would end government hopes of containing the insurgency.

But what can or should be done? The IMF has withheld \$453 million in loans because Marcos has refused

to carry out promised economic reforms. If he cannot be moved by the loss of that sum, he is not likely to be swayed by the prospect of a cut in US aid, now running at \$180 million a year.

Senators have called for an end to talk and the flexing of US muscles. Senator Alan Cranston talked about a "swift transfer of power from Marcos to the loyal, democratic and still largely pro-American opposition." But that opposition may not be so pro-American for long. The US is doing its best to identify and support potential replacements for Marcos, but the murder in 1983 of the only credible opposition candidate, Benigno Aquino, and the blatant execution of those Marcos supporters implicated in his death, bodes ill for peaceful change.

The Reagan administration no longer trusts Marcos's word; it has seen too many assurances of change disappear into nothing. Washington will increase the pressure until it is satisfied the January elections are inevitable, and then Congress will insist on sending observers to see they are fairly conducted. But what if the results are nevertheless rigged, or because of bitter divisions among opposition leaders, Marcos wins? The US nightmare is by no means over.

Michael Hamlyn on the rise and rise of Rajiv Gandhi



From tyro to binder of a nation's wounds

Delhi
When Rajiv Gandhi was sworn in as Indian prime minister a year ago he had held no other executive or ministerial office except as one of a number of general secretaries of his mother's party, to which she had appointed him.

He took over as rampaging Hindu mob in the capital killed, maimed and burned Sikhs and looted their property in revenge for his mother's assassination. It seemed to many that India might be destroyed as a unified state.

It has survived, and in the process its political character has changed. Mrs Gandhi had helped create the disunity her son inherited. Her state of emergency had alienated the country's intellectuals; to ward off potential challengers, she saw to it that no congressman flourished in central government if he had a powerful regional base. She encouraged the growth of regional parties and regional demands, her skill in creating divisions within rival parties ensuring that opposition state governments could be toppled and minority groups maintained in power only with the support of her Congress (I).

In the months before she was killed Mrs Gandhi's state governors had dismissed governments in Andhra Pradesh and Kashmir and installed turncoat factions. But perhaps her skills were losing their cutting edge for in Andhra Pradesh she was forced to retreat. A combination of intellectuals, politicians and regional resentment and the political panache of the ousted chief minister brought him back.

In Assam, an effort to force through elections which Congress would (and did) win caused a bloodbath. In Punjab, Congress attempts to divide the main Sikh party by turning another Sikh political leader into a political phenomenon backfired so badly that he led a campaign of terror against the central government. The culmination was Mrs Gandhi's own death.

Today the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh and the Janata party chief minister of neighbouring Karnataka vie in praise of the prime minister. In Punjab the Congress central government appeared not only happy to welcome an opposition party to power in the September election that followed Gandhi's settlement with Sikh leaders but actually seemed anxious to help it in by putting up young and

unfamiliar candidates in many constituencies. Gandhi declared that although Congress had officially lost the election, in a way it had won because the result demonstrated overwhelming acceptance of the settlement deal.

In Assam an agreement with local leaders has brought their agitation to an end and will lead to new elections soon. In Karnataka, where the Janata-led coalition was routed in the general election, Gandhi allowed himself to be outmanoeuvred by the wily chief minister in the subsequent state election and a Janata majority government was returned.

In Kashmir there are signals that an accommodation will be reached with the charismatic Farooq Abdullah, son of the old Lion of Kashmir, Sheikh Abdullah, who was ousted from the chief ministership in July last year.

The acceptance of non-Congress state governments does not mean, however, that Gandhi will not do his best to see Congress returned in all six states where opposition parties now rule. He said last week that Congress would be back in West Bengal, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. He could have added Tamil Nadu, Tripura and Punjab, since another change to the political map is his own immense popularity and election-winning ability.

Before Mrs Gandhi was killed she was facing the possibility of parliamentary full-term elections with less than enthusiasm. It seemed likely that her party would lose the south entirely, and that it would even fare badly in the Hindi heartland, the flat Gangetic plain that crosses the country from the Rajasthan desert to the damp borders of Bengal. Even Rajiv, in his brother's constituency of Amethi, faced a threatening challenge from his estranged sister-in-law, Menaka. In the event Gandhi swept back to power last December with a record

401 seats out of 508 contested. His majority in Amethi was over 300,000; no one has again heard of Menaka Gandhi or her party, the National Sanjay Party.

Since then Gandhi has, if anything, become even more popular. His rawness has begun to mature into an assured suavity and a deftness of touch. He has shown political courage in risking Hindu wrath by yielding to the Sikhs; he showed physical courage by campaigning in Punjab so soon after the assassination of the moderate Sikh leader, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal. His successful visits to Washington and Moscow have won him further respect.

This popularity is enabling him to make the most revolutionary change in India's economy since his mother nationalized the banks and insurance companies. Socialism and self-reliance have long been the watchwords of Indian economic governance but Gandhi is liberating the businessman from the "licence and permit raj" under which enterprise was regulated and controlled until enthusiasm wilted and corruption flourished.

Imports are being liberated from prohibitive taxes so that technologically advanced goods may be brought in - in the hope that they will advance India's technology.

The new liberalization is opposed by those who remember how the watchwords of Gandhi's grandfather, Pandit Nehru, built huge steelworks and power stations and banned the import of foreign cars. Gandhi insists that he has not deviated from his grandfather's line but that different conditions today require different policies.

Some of the dangers in his policies are evident, however. At an exhibition of electronic technology in Delhi recently I was disappointed to see that most exhibits were television sets assembled from

imported Japanese parts. It is possible that instead of computers to assist the economy, precious foreign exchange will be frittered away on frivolous consumer goods for the middle classes. The chill wind of foreign competition could kill some domestic industries.

These dangers apart, Gandhi has already brought a new sense of urgency and professionalism to the management of the nation's affairs. He has surrounded himself with a group of successful business-minded executives and has begun to impose similar business-oriented ideas on government.

For example he has grouped his ministries under super-chiefs, so that the minister of transport is now responsible for roads, railways and aviation, each with its own minister of state. The education ministry is linked with those of culture, youth affairs, sport and women under a minister for human resource development.

Logical moves like those should help alleviate the bureaucratic clogging and overlapping of the past. As a precaution Gandhi has set up a ministry for programme implementation to ensure that plans are not frustrated by inter-ministerial rivalry or by conflicts between the centre and the states.

Arun Nehru, a cousin and close adviser, has been put in charge of police affairs at the home ministry and is liaising with chief ministers in a number of key states - law and order is technically a state and not a federal matter. Another close adviser, Arun Singh, has been given defence and the Italian-born vice-Secretary to the prime minister, should one be needed, to Pakistan's reported progress to an atomic bomb - under Gandhi's overall charge.

If these signs seem ominous for civil liberties, there are countervailing signals too. Gandhi has announced that he will hold elections to the organizational committees of his political party next year - the first such elections for about 15 years. He has also rejected the idea of appointing an Italian-born vice-Secretary to the prime minister.

If in this he has dashed the hopes of the supporters of dynastic politics who welcomed his accession to power, he has shown that India itself has not changed very much. The man who proposed that Sonia Gandhi should be so elevated, Bhaskar Pandey from Deoria in Uttar Pradesh, has threatened to starve himself to death unless it is done.

Germans and Jews held for ransom

Vienna
Like many things in Romania, emigration is fraught with hazards. Intrigue, bribery, years of form-filling and desperate searches for Kent cigarettes and western currency face anyone wise or unwise enough to contemplate leaving its benefits. A Romanian who applies to emigrate is usually instantly dismissed from his job. Thus deprived of any legal means of earning an income, he is nonetheless expected to repay his education fees in western currency, a commodity he is by law forbidden to possess. For the beleaguered Germans of Transylvania West Germany acts as a distant fairy godmother, scattering huge sums in marks each year.

In recent months, West Germany has been joined by another country prepared to wave the magic wand of hard currency in an attempt to lure a suppressed minority to escape. Israel also "buys" for an undisclosed sum, suitable applicants who say they are Jews.

It is an embarrassing but, if western intelligence experts are to be believed, undeniable fact that many so-called Romanian Jews who arrive in Israel do not possess a drop of

Jewish blood. According to several Romanian emigrants working in the West, most of "Jewish" emigrants from Romania continue to do so undisturbed by anyone names that anyone familiar with Romanian Jewry could only fall about laughing.

Jews or not, these Romanians continue to trickle through to Israel. It is a bizarre but characteristic ruse of a country which remains the joker in the European card game.

Unlike the Germans of Transylvania, Romanian Jews - although equally despised by the Ceausescu regime - are useful in helping Romania to convince western powers that it enjoys independence from the Kremlin.

With brilliant agility Bucharest pursues an anti-semitic campaign which can sometimes rival anything in Nazi Germany, while at the same time bombarding the West with propaganda about the favourable treatment of Romanian Jews.

Jews do enjoy the privilege of religious education - unique in a country which treats the import of Bibles as a criminal offence. But religious classes have increasingly become history classes dwelling on aspects of the scriptures which can

be given a Communist interpretation.

Romania's Jews, who survived the last war largely intact, have been gradually worn down by relentless assimilation combined with officially condoned anti-semitism and, before the Ceausescu regime, emigration. Some 500,000 survived the war thanks to the calculated but brave refusal of Marshal Antonov, King Michael's regent, to ship them to concentration camps in Germany. Today, they number little over 30,000.

President Ceausescu's obsession with the racial purity of the Romanians, an ugly but increasingly recurrent theme, continues to undermine the country's Jewry as much as it does the Hungarians and German ethnic minorities in Transylvania. At the same time, however, the Ceausescu regime knows that its Jewish population is a link with the West, and of course Israel. By refusing permission for them to emigrate, and even supplying Israel with Romanians who are not Jewish, Bucharest cleverly keeps influence with the Middle East and the West. By appearing to allow

Jewish culture to flourish, Ceausescu can fly an even brighter kite of implied criticism of Kremlin policies.

This in turn persuades the United States to grant favoured nation status to a country practising the worst violations of human rights anywhere in Eastern Europe. There is almost a whiff of Metetrich's brilliance in this ability to pull the wool over the free world's eyes.

Israel for its part needs Romania more than Ceausescu wants the attentions of the West. Romania is the only country in Eastern Europe with which Israel has diplomatic relations and it is critical to its line of communication with the Communist world. However inflated Ceausescu's self-styled role of Middle East mediator may sound, the ground for the historic visit to Jerusalem by President Sadat of Egypt was partly prepared in Bucharest.

But such considerations should not blind anyone to the fact that the country offers as little freedom to its Jews as it does to its Christians.

Richard Bassett

Matthew Parris

Counter logic to bus monopoly

In the closing hours of the last parliamentary session I raised a lonely glass to the Buses Bill, which is now staggering toward the final hurdle of royal assent. If Her Majesty has not lobbied against the measure, she is unusual. Everyone else has. That is how one can be sure it has merit.

The Act will remove the licensed monopoly which most bus companies enjoy. This dispenses both licenses and licensees, who have combined to scare the wit out of the public about the horrors to come. Labour politicians go around the country telling the elderly that their bus passes will soon be confiscated and returned to tell Parliament of pensioners' "widespread anxiety". Even the Women's Institutes have been persuaded to oppose, on the grounds, apparently, that women travel on buses. Our all-party select committee reports that the great weight of witnesses' arguments has been against the bill.

One afternoon, during the bill's 178 hours in standing committee, I slipped into an extended daydream. Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody was making a long and venomous speech about bus stops. It was vital, she was saying, that local authorities determine the siting of these stops. Somehow I misheard her to say "shops" instead of "stops". Immediately, I was off and running, mentally composing the case for retaining full local authority control of the siting and operation of shops through a licensing system.

I forgot that they have never in fact had such control and constructed the best argument for retaining it. It was extraordinarily strong and irresistibly logical. Soon I was composing a little speech, summing up for the opposition to deregulating grocery stores.

"Mr Speaker, government has always thought it right to regulate the pattern of retail trade. Our purpose - and successive governments have shared it - has been to ensure that no citizen is beyond reach of a good grocer's clean, well-stocked and fairly priced: open at hours which are convenient to the customer and fair upon staff. This is achievable without nationalization, by judicious control."

"The House knows that such benefits cannot be without cost. Every one of our constituents needs - I would say has a right to - food and drink and the ordinary necessities of the household. But not everyone lives where the profit motive alone will attract shopkeepers. Isolated villages, thinly-populated farmlands, poor and dangerous inner-city areas where the risks are high, the returns modest... the needs of our citizens here are just as real, every bit as legitimate. Would it be right to deny them? No!"

"This is why we need to regulate, and why our local authority licensing has been such a mainstay. I need hardly remind the House how the principle of cross-subsidy has operated to maintain the loss-making but socially necessary shops from the profits of the money-

spinners. Sir, without licensing - without the power to require that a shopkeeper operates both types of store - it cannot be done."

"Nor is that the only benefit of regulation. Of course shopkeepers need a fair return. But in so sensitive, so vital an industry the profit motive, unsupervised, cannot be all. Who, Sir, could feel confident that our high standards of hygiene, refrigeration and stock turnover would survive the end of licensing? Monitoring alone... never suffice. Corners would be cut."

"There are whole sections of our citizenry, Mr Speaker, who could never be left to the mercy of the open market. The old, the sick, the disabled - where is the profit in selling to those who have little to spend? Without our 'fair pricing' initiative, where is the frail old lady who wants just two ounces of mince for her cat? None of this could survive without the power to license."

"The Union of Shopkeepers has argued that I think convincingly that where every grocer fears competition, shops might stay open after half-past-three in the afternoon, and on Saturdays. Yet what is of marginal convenience to the customer would be the ruin of the till-girl's family life. Are our people so disorganized that they cannot do their shopping before 3.30?"

"We have heard, too, from the great metropolitan authorities their 'integrated retailing policy' their grocery advice counters and their rationalized delivery network may, it is true, have gone beyond what many think appropriate, but that cannot be an argument for the deregulated alternative. Imagine the chaos of an Oxford Street where every other business was a shop! What could be more idiotic, more wasteful, than the mindless duplication of shops all selling similar goods? How would the small greengrocer survive a price war between two locally sited megastores? How could it be right to allow a superfluity of groceries in Southwark with not a single grocer on Sky? Regulation, Sir, protects us from this."

"We have heard, finally, from the universities and business schools. They remind us that demand for groceries is finite and can be satisfied by existing outlets. There is a limit to the quantity of soap, or potatoes, a household can consume. To multiply the numbers of groceries and extend hours increases costs, not receipts. It must reduce the productivity of the retailing sector. Bankruptcies will follow. Can that be Conservative policy?"

"No, Sir. I ask the House to reject this ideological folly."

I awake to hear Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary, explaining that he hoped bus companies would find the best places for their stops without local authority direction. Mrs Dunwoody was laughing derisively.

The author is Conservative MP for West Derbyshire.

moreover... Miles Kingston

Giving tongue to multimind

It is said that people in the Eastern bloc live under the most terrible strain, because they have to have two separate sets of thoughts. In their outward life they have to pay lip service to the system, and talk and behave like good Communists. Only in their private inmost life can they think and sometimes say what they really believe. The relief of coming to the West and at least being able to maintain the lost link is said to be a tremendous experience for them.

If this is so, then Prince Charles would be enormously relieved by defecting to Russia. In Russia, he would be required to have only two sets of beliefs. Here it seems that someone in his position has to have three or four to juggle with. As a member of the Royal Family, he has to toe the family line and say that he is delighted to be here today. As a private individual he has the freedom to think to himself what a terrible nuisance it is to be here today. But in between these two extremes, he has a set of beliefs which can be vouchsafed off-the-record to friendly journalists, or to concerned architects, or just to friends.

As long as this juggling act is done cleverly, and the different beliefs and attitudes are kept apart, everything is fine. As soon as one attitude is lobbed into the wrong court, or caught by the wrong person, all hell appears to break loose. Nothing is really changed, of course; it's just that for a moment the rules of the game have been broken and an indirect free kick has been awarded against Prince Charles. Moments later the kick is taken and everyone has forgotten about it.

The trouble is that it isn't merely Prince Charles who is playing the game. Sometimes it seems that everyone in Britain is consciously or unconsciously joining in the game of double-speak. Politicians play nothing else, of course; they have to juggle what they really believe with what they want the public to believe, as well as what they want the lobby journalists to believe and Mrs Thatcher to believe. It is taken as a matter of course in Britain that if the leader of the Opposition thought that a new government bill was an excellent idea, he would never say so except in private: he is duty-bound to get up and attack it ferociously.

Lawyers play this game. Civil servants play the game well. Doctors play it quite well. Sportsmen do not generally do enough thinking to get into double figures and achieve double-think; they're

quite busy enough keeping a double set of figures. Trade union leaders not only play the game well, but have evolved a special kind of English in which to play it, rather ugly and monotonous. Advertising and television people live by playing the game, where "It's lovely to have you on the show, Brian," means "So you've got a new book out this week, Brian."

The game is so widespread that it's only when someone breaks the rules and the crowd starts baying for him to be sent off that we really notice it. The Bradford headmaster who got into such hot water by writing publicly that his white pupils' performance would be affected by a preponderance of non-white pupils was not playing the game properly. If he had written that a minority of black pupils would be adversely affected by a preponderance of white, nobody would have turned a hair.

Even in the world of literary values this game of double-think is played for all its worth. I once took part in a broadcast book show on which we all discussed seriously (the works of Iris Murdoch. In the showers afterwards it turned out that none of us had ever really enjoyed anything she had written and that none of us was prepared to say so in public. Again, I have privately felt for a long time that Dylan Thomas's poetry was empty, overblown stuff while such down-to-earth works as *Under Milk Wood* were magnificent comic writing. I was delighted to see Julian Symonds in *The Guardian* last week saying that he believed the same, but he was conscious he was breaking the rules of the game and felt forced to apologize.

And that is why, when someone comes along who refuses to play the game, it is such a tremendous and overdue shock to the system. Very occasionally someone in public refuses to recognize the difference between what he thinks and what he says. The shameless Auberon Waugh is one indeed. Waugh has made a career out of writing publicly what he thinks privately, so much so that you feel he has, shameless, private thoughts solely in order to express them publicly. But the shameless Auberon Waugh is not the only one. Bob Geldof, an extremely blunt and funny person who has had the unique chance of touring the world and telling various leaders exactly what he thinks of them. This is so appallingly unexpected that nobody has yet answered him back.

But then Mr C. of Irish, and maybe he don't play double-think so well in Ireland as we do.

مكتبة من الأصول



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OPTIMISM IN ARGENTINA

Barely five months into an economic austerity programme of exceptional severity, President Raul Alfonsín appears to have achieved a greater electoral victory than any economic or political forecaster would have dared to predict. It is spectacularly good news that this has occurred in Argentina, hitherto unquestionably the most inflationary and mismanaged of all the debt-ridden economies of Latin America. Nothing succeeds like success. The efforts of neighbouring governments to persuade their electorates to swallow the unpleasant medicine of economic reform will thus be greatly reinforced.

It is also remarkably good news that such reform should be pursued, and now endorsed, in a democracy. President Alfonsín's task has been a fearful one: to reduce Argentina's inflation rate from over 1,000 per cent last year, after a quarter of a century in which Argentinean prices multiplied 100,000 times. The programme launched in June required drastic and painful adjustments by Argentina's citizens, but rapidly reduced inflation to a mere two or three per cent a month, and secured a strategic renegotiation of the most pressing elements of Argentina's \$46 billion of foreign debt. Now it has resuscitated the President's mandate to persevere.

The stability of the Argentinean economy is an essential constituent in the struggle to resolve the international debt crisis without government default, which threatens to lead to the collapse of the Western banking system on which all of our economic fortunes have come to depend. The stability of

Argentinean democracy is also an essential element in the diplomacy of the Falklands question, on which so much of Britain's political fortunes has so recently depended.

Sunday's elections were a new phenomenon. Argentineans have not gone to this sort of poll for 20 years, and then no British interest seemed involved. The results so far give several reasons for optimism. The Radical vote, at some 44 per cent, is almost as high as the 46 per cent attained in 1983, and this confirms that what occurred then did represent a profound realignment in Argentinean politics. It is no new landslide, but it is near the 45 to 50 per cent that President Alfonsín expected to get. He will emerge with a slightly increased majority in the House of Deputies.

The Peronists went into the election divided. They do not appear to have suffered the degree of defeat that might drive them to desperate courses, and in the capital city and in Buenos Aires Province, the reformist elements in the party have done best. Small gains have been made by small parties and provincial parties—in itself an encouraging sign in a country where minorities of left and right have too frequently ignored democratic channels, and one prone to excessive centralization.

"Six years, no more, no less" is Dr Alfonsín's estimate of his time in the Casa Rosada. His popularity far outstrips that of his party, but such is a common phenomenon in democracies, and there are no grounds at all for questioning the sincerity of his democratic convictions. The

President's authority does not rest on measures like the recent technical state of siege, whose influence on the poll is hard to discern, but on the real achievements in the past year. The Government came late to taking the drastic steps needed to begin to restore economic order, and still has many difficulties ahead, but the immediate results of the austerity plan have proved remarkably successful, and the plan itself remarkably popular.

Things have therefore changed in Argentina, and only the most blinkered can doubt that it is in Britain's interests too that these gains should be sustained. The Falklands dispute remains an intractable problem, but discussion looks less impossible than it did a year ago. Now that Mr Kinnoch and Mr Steel have met the president, the virtual taboo on the subject that prevailed in the general election has been quietly, but decisively, broken. Recent declarations from Buenos Aires do not show the nervousness that surrounded the abortive Berne talks. In an interview last week, the Foreign Minister, Senor Caputo, did not rule out the possibility of Argentina taking part in multilateral talks on fishery control along with the British Government, under the auspices of the Food and Agricultural Organization, without prejudice to the sovereignty argument. Sir Geoffrey Howe has realistically resisted pressure to make any unilateral declaration of control over disputed waters. There is nothing to fear from discussion and debate with Argentina in the tones that shared democracy makes possible.

BANNING BALLOTS BACKS BULLETS

Mr John Hume, leader of the SDLP, is privy to the Anglo-Irish negotiations now almost complete. Mr Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Féin, is not. His confident prediction that as part, or as consequence, of agreement between the two governments Sinn Féin would be proscribed on both sides of the border is not information from the stable but intelligent surmise.

The reasons for thinking he may be right are these. Unionist politicians, who deeply resent the presence of Sinn Féin councillors in the local government of the province, have made some impression on ministers with their complaints, and have also demonstrated by their refusal to do business with Sinn Féin councillors how local government could be brought to a standstill unless their grievance is attended to. Mr Richard Needham, a junior minister at the Northern Ireland Office, has been examining the options.

Sinn Féin's credentials as a political party entitled to the enjoyment of democratic rights are flawed by its open advocacy of the "armed struggle", that is violent insurrection in the form of murderous attacks on members of the security forces, present and past, and on anyone else whom the commanders may

pronounce a "legitimate target". Its credentials are flawed also by refusal to attend bodies to which its candidates stand for election, including the two sovereign parliaments of the British Isles, the European parliament and the provincial assembly of Northern Ireland. The political leadership of Sinn Féin tried but failed to get the party conference at the weekend to convert that refusal from one of principle to one of tactics.

An agreement authorizing Dublin to put a finger in the Ulster pie would have to be sugared if Ulster Protestants were not to spit it out. What better sweetener than early proof of the new consultation over policy and the new co-operation in security in the form of joint proscription of Sinn Féin, something Unionists would be really pleased to get? In the same way evidence of joint determination to "crush the republican movement" (Mr Adams's words), an impression the British Government certainly, and the Irish Government possibly would be keen to convey.

These are factors that make proscription opportune. But the standing objections weigh no less than before. The first is the

inefficacy of proscription in practice and its lack of finality. Proscribe the party of Provisional Sinn Féin and the same characters with the same message can pop up again for election in different dress. And if individual abjuration of political violence is required for candidature to elective office, prevarication and mental reservation can be employed to defeat the intentions of authority, which can usually be made a fool of by more nimble challengers when it embarks on the suppression of opinion.

It is not six months since Sinn Féin had its useful though not spectacular returns from the local elections in Northern Ireland. Scrub out those elected councillors now by fiat and in the all-important propaganda contest it is the power of the state that could be made to appear fearful of the validating ballot box, in place of those seeking to overthrow it by violent means. The Provisionals would be handed a public pretext they now lack for recourse to violence, the pretext that they are denied means of political expression. It is a bogus pretext, but in parts of Irish America and other sympathetic quarters it would work to the advantage of the Provos.

TIN SOLDIERS

The prolonged closure of the London market in tin is the product of a series of unusual, not to say bizarre, factors no longer relevant to other leading commodity or financial markets.

It could, however, have a disproportionate and damaging effect both on the future of the London Metal Exchange as a whole and, mainly for psychological reasons, on the standing of other international markets which are centred in London but could easily be taken over by other ambitions and competing financial centres.

The main peculiarity of the tin market is that it is dominated by an international organization of producer and consumer governments which seeks to control the price between politically agreed limits by the speculative use of a reserve fund, the buffer stock. That is the system abandoned as unworkable in currency markets nearly 15 years ago.

In an era of rapid economic and price fluctuations, the old currency system broke down because governments took an unrealistic view of their own currencies. So did the sixth agreement of the International Tin Council in 1982, dominated by producers who needed a tin price higher than the level of world economic activity would bear. The United States sensibly withdrew from the agreement at that time. The relatively high price of tin encouraged new producers outside the ITC's quotas while depressing the

market for tin against competing metals priced more in line with depressed market demand.

The most bizarre feature is that the International Tin Council, which found itself the victim of one-way speculation, itself defaulted when banks realized that the theoretical backing of governments was no longer any guarantee for an untenable trading position secured on tin at an inflated price. Some dealing members of the London Metal Exchange, however, must also bear some blame for the hefty losses faced since they appear to have lent money to the buffer stock manager to buy tin from them at unrealistically high prices.

Mr Leon Brittan, the trade and industry secretary, has intervened wisely. He has made it clear that the United Kingdom will stand by its obligation to honour its share of deals already undertaken by the buffer stock manager. He has also let it be known that the antediluvian system of intervention that produced this crisis will have to stop. That is surely sensible. It is up to the other members of the ITC to follow Mr Brittan's lead. For if this country, as a minor producer as well as host to this debacle, has a strong vested interest in sorting it out cleanly, so have other members of the ITC, who sanctioned the parameters for disaster. The offer made by ITC's bankers last night provides a basis for settlement which should be seized.

Mr Brittan cannot resolve the situation alone. He is, however, responsible for the conduct of London markets and will rightly be worried at the damage that is already being caused by the tin suspension because of fears that financial difficulties among a tight-knit group of dealers could spill over into other commodity and futures markets. Most of the dealers are backed by large firms, but fear ignores such niceties.

London is presently losing pre-eminence to New York and in one or two cases to continental markets in a number of commodities. Markets are not buoyant, commodity prices in general are depressed (as developing country governments know to their cost) and London's position depends on its reputation for safe and liquid markets, where speculation can at least hope to perform the role of smoothing price changes.

The London Metal Exchange lacks the central clearing and guarantee arrangements offered by most other markets and the regulation of trading that goes with that. It was reluctant to join the self-regulatory body set up for the purposes of the proposed Financial Services Bill. It is in danger of being too narrow and fading away. Mr Brittan cannot prevent that, but he will want to make sure that the rules accepted for future self-regulation will lead to a substantial and overdue reform of the London Metal Exchange.

Widening a right of audience

From Mr Cyril Smith, MP for Rochdale (Liberal)

Sir, I have read with interest the letter (October 31) in relation to rights of audience from the Chairman of the Bar, Mr Robert Alexander.

Perhaps I should first of all explain that the involvement of barristers in the case in question is nothing like as detailed or involved as Mr Alexander's letter would seem to indicate. I would also point out that to avoid the courts requires the agreement of both parties and not simply one. Beyond that I will not comment further since, as Mr Alexander points out, the case is under appeal.

It is, of course, true that a party to a case could read his own statement, but since the statements have to be read at courts in London, this places people in the North at considerable disadvantage, especially with railway fares and hotel costs being what they are.

For all my life I have been opposed to closed shops, and I feel equally strongly about monopolies. Why barristers should have the sole right to appear in front of the High Court is beyond me, and I certainly do believe that it is worth trying to fight to destroy monopolies, whether they be in courts of law or outside them.

As to Mr Brett, I can only tell you that I found his advice and help to be invaluable. I am sorry that Mr Alexander chooses to deride the work of a plumber, which in itself is a professional skill, certainly as professional, though in a different way, as that of the Chairman of the Bar.

Yours sincerely,
CYRIL SMITH,
House of Commons,
October 31.

From Mr Peter W. Mowat

Sir, The Chairman of the Bar states (October 31) that he "... would be surprised if one could get a plumber to do comparable work for the price (£25)..." with reference to the question of right of audience.

I engaged the services of a plumber recently to attend to a leaking pipe under my bath. He charged £10. The subtle difference here is that I could see for myself whether or not he had done a good job. I did not have to pay his petrol costs. Nor did he treat himself to a fish supper at my expense on the grounds that he was discussing how to assign my assignment with a specialist.

How sad to see this worthy profession squealing in defence of the principle of prohibitive demarcation which has practically disappeared from the shop floor and never even existed in service industries such as plumbing.

Yours faithfully,
PETER W. MOWAT,
8 David Street,
Inverbarrow, by Montrose,
Angus,
October 31.

Needs of mentally ill

From Dr Robert Baldwin and others

Sir, As a result of the DHSS policy of "care in the community" for the mentally ill, more and more patients with chronic psychiatric disability are relying on social security. Norman Fowler has recently proposed changes in the social security system which include the abolition of entitlement clothing, furniture, bedding, decoration and heating grants. As a consultant psychiatrist, we believe that these proposals will put psychiatric patients at a special disadvantage and prevent their rehabilitation from hospital back into the community.

For example, of the schizophrenic patients discharged from Central Manchester hospitals in the first six months of this year, over one third required furniture, clothing or bedding grants to enable them to live outside hospital. Without these grants they would still be occupying hospital beds. Not only would this place an extra burden on the taxpayer and undermine the Government's policy of community care for the mentally ill, but it would also cause great distress and deprivation for the patients concerned.

The proposed abolition of grants illustrates the contrast between the pious rhetoric "care in the community" and the reality of cuts in social security and social services. We are led to conclude that there is a fundamental discrepancy in DHSS policy for people with chronic psychiatric disability.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT BALDWIN,
SIDNEY BENJAMIN,
FRANK MARSHALL,
SHIRLEY SEATON,
NIEL SIMPSON,
Department of Psychiatry,
Manchester Royal Infirmary,
York Place,
Manchester M13,
October 18.

Taxing student grants

From Mr G. Rennison

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr S. A. Harris (October 22) writes about the lack of common sense and fairness in students' tax allowances.

Surely, the application of common sense would result in a fairer system if, when assessing students who are maintained through deed of covenant, the Inland Revenue, which takes back with one hand what it gives with the other, were to regard only the portion which it contributes (the parent's tax refunded to the student) as taxable income and not the full covenant payment.

Yours faithfully,
G. RENNISON,
12 Berkeley Way,
Tisbury,
Gloucestershire,
October 23.

Second thoughts on a Channel crossing

From Councillor Chris Brown

Sir, Your report (November 1) on the bid by the Channel Tunnel Group clearly demonstrated the need for careful analysis of the viability and the impact of a fixed link across the Channel. Unfortunately I and many others are less than convinced that present plans provide adequate scrutiny.

CTG are quoted as saying that the likely cost to motorists of travel through their scheme will be below the current ferry costs. They are also below those anticipated by the ferry operators. CTG are also quoted as saying that they "expect that there will be a net gain in employment in the Kent area." These statements are incompatible.

Any fixed link will have a higher capital cost than a ferry system of similar capacity. To compete the fixed link must have lower running costs and in particular lower labour costs. It is inevitable, therefore, that a financially viable scheme must involve large numbers of job losses in East Kent, where unemployment is already high and alternative opportunities do not exist.

It is a nonsense, therefore, for the Government to suggest that they will not put any money into a fixed link since it is the taxpayers who will meet the cost of the unemployment created. These large-scale public costs and the security and health aspects of a fixed link cannot be adequately explored by a "internal exercise" such as the one upon which the Government has embarked. Only a public enquiry will do.

A Government minister, speaking on *Question Time*, said that he thought it "inconceivable" that such a major project could proceed without a public enquiry. Unfortunately Mr Ridley has such a conception. It is time his Cabinet colleagues told him to think again.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS BROWN,
Members' Suite,
County Hall,
Maidstone,
Kent,
November 1.

From Mr R. F. Legge

Sir, When will this country get its priorities right on transport expendi-

ture? A new cross-Channel link will cost billions of pounds and be, at best, of dubious added value to the nation.

At the same time there is still not one adequate road built or planned between our manufacturing centres and the east coast ports through which most of our exports now pass. The value of the M25 motorway is largely nullified by the failure to provide adequate Thames tunnels at Dartford, and there is no firm plan to remedy this.

Such projects would cost a small fraction of the proposed Channel expenditure and yield a far greater added value to the nation. Is not the Channel mania further evidence of a country besotted by frivolities as its economy founders?

Yours faithfully,
R. F. LEGGE,
87 Penshurst Gardens,
Edgware,
Middlesex,
November 1.

From Sir Paul Wright

Sir, My father (1866 to 1938) was convinced that a Channel tunnel would be built in his lifetime. He used to tell me, a goggle-eyed schoolboy, that in the event of invasion the Prime Minister would personally blow it up by pressing a secret button under his desk at No 10. I doubt whether today's specifications call for such a requirement.

However, the question of security in the present climate of international terrorism was not touched upon in your leading article of November 1. Such a fixed link would surely be uniquely vulnerable to terrorist attack and present a most tempting target for those wishing to capture the world's headlines for their cause. This suggests a need for security checks of individuals, vehicles and trains which could cause delays of spectacular length and irritation.

It would be interesting to know if the planners recognize such a problem and, if so, how they propose to deal with it.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL WRIGHT,
3 Ormonde Gate, SW3,
November 1.

Black economy

From Mr John F. G. Mumby

Sir, In the second of her fascinating articles on the black economy (October 28 and 29) Sarah Hogg uses the oft-quoted figure of £4 billion used by the Inland Revenue for the annual loss of tax revenue arising from tax evasion. Could I suggest that this figure is flawed? The correct assessment of lost revenue is a more complex matter than is generally supposed.

Imagine the tax collection system as a fish-finding nets, with shoals of fish representing taxes legally payable. If some fish avoid the nets on a first run they are bound to be caught subsequently by another net. The plumber who spends his tax-free money on a restaurant meal is adding value to the company owning the restaurant which is taxed at 15 per cent and the profit on the meal is probably taxed

at a higher rate corporately than the plumber would have paid, and helps to employ people who are also paying tax.

The true figure is probably much less than quoted and may even be very small in national terms. Much depends on the speed at which money circulates into the "tax nets", and money in the black economy, overlapping the "official economy", probably circulates faster than it would in the Government's coffers.

It can therefore be argued that all this moral delinquency, however unjustified, is having a beneficial effect on the economy by lubricating commercial activity without any really damaging effect on tax revenue.

Yours truly,
J. F. G. MUMBY,
Risegarth,
Keldgate Road,
Cottingham,
East Yorkshire,
October 30.

Sale of Rysbrack bust

From Sir Basil Hall

Sir, Your report of today (October 31) on the forthcoming sale by the Athenaeum of Rysbrack's bust of Alexander Pope queries why it has been decided to send the poet for sale.

The reason is that the club is to be granted a new lease of the club house, which it has occupied since 1830, for a further 99 years and for this a price has to be paid. Sad though we are to lose our treasure, we believe that the assurance of the continuance of the club until at least 2084 is justification enough for the decision to sell the bust.

Yours faithfully,
BASIL HALL,
Chairman of the General Committee,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall, SW1,
October 31.

Right to sight

From Mr Peter Latham

Sir, Lord Rugby (October 26) has been able to buy some "simple magnifying lenses" in Budapest without a prescription for £7 and feels that he should be able to do the same in this country.

Many conditions like diabetes, hypertension, glaucoma, etc., can initially cause ocular symptoms like those of the simple "middle-age sight" that most of us experience and only a complete eye examination can show which group we belong to.

The danger in Lord Rugby's suggestion is that the blurred vision described above could be removed, for a while at least, by the wearing of "simple magnifying lenses" while the condition causing it remains undetected. (In those cases where we detect glaucoma, for instance, the patient very rarely suspects that he has the condition.)

In spite of a long-running campaign by Lord Rugby, we still have perhaps the best eye-care system in the world. He can still have a complete eye examination free of charge and a complete pair of prescription glasses for as little as £12.50. Should he qualify for rent rebate he would not even have to pay that!

Yours faithfully,
PETER LATHAM,
6 White Hart Street,
Mansfield,
Nottinghamshire,
October 26.

Matter of manufacturing

From Mr G. M. Ledingham

Sir, I really cannot accept John Constable's analysis of the tasks facing British management in the manufacturing sector (October 25).

Management, at the operational level, is becoming more and more remote from where the real decisions on investment are being made which is in the planning division of the most recent consortium which had acquired them. The skills associated with successful takeovers are not necessarily those which can contribute to the successful development of the manufacturing company some half-dozen hierarchies removed from the holding board.

Instead, market opportunities are identified in other fields which require resources for development and to show a high profit profile to the market, can markedly influence investment decisions in the manufacturing subsidiary.

I can agree with John Constable, though for different reasons, that there is no "them" and "us" in this situation. Both management and workers are, in effect, helpless in ensuring that the company is equipped to meet the challenge of foreign and other competition. Under these circumstances how can the management of the manufacturing subsidiary possibly accept

ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 5 1790

Prompted by the revolution in France, a number of societies advocating radical reform sprang up in England.

REVOLUTION SOCIETY.

The Members of this Society, very far inferior to the number expected, dined together yesterday at the London Tavern. Dr. Price, or rather, according to their own principles, Mr. RICHARD PRICE in the Chair.

Barl STANHOPE, their former perpetual President, having thought proper to leave them to their own pursuits, - a Commissioner, who is far superior to all ranks and dignities, was thought calculated to succeed him.

Doctor - we beg pardon - Mr. Kippis repeated something after dinner by way of grace but which, in propriety of speech, was a philippic against Mr. Burke, for his unwearied slander. Several toasts were drunk after dinner. One given by Mr. Richard Price merits to be recorded - it was "May the Parliament of Great Britain become a National Assembly."

Mr. Horne Tooke delivered a violent philippic, first against Mr. Burke, and next against Lord Stanhope. One sentence only, as containing some humour, is worth notice. "Let us regard to Mr. Burke (says he) let us wish that if he be huz to be tried - for having published the truth we suppose) his trial may last as long as that of Mr. Hastings."

Lord STANHOPE, it was said, took away the society's books, that he might strike his name off with his own hand. Lord WILLIAM RUSSELL, was also attacked, and that, in a noble family, and having in a fit of political enthusiasm, without fear of the consequences before his eye, become a Member of the society, he had afterwards quitted his new associates and withdrawn from their list.

By way of revenge against those Tooke and his associates, Mr. Horne Tooke moved that hereafter they should abolish all titles at least among themselves.

This motion was just as necessary, as one would have been for building a bridge over dry ground, or fortifications were no enemies are expected. It, however, produced more noise, more dissipated harangues than an ear well attuned to harmony, - sound sense and soft persuasion could possibly bear.

When you cannot remove noise from you, it is prudent to remove from the noise.

Coetara desunt

In the late 1780s Nottingham was an important seat of the stocking trade. It prospered further when Arkwright moved there with his invention the spinning frame. In 1783 a worker could earn about 10 or 12 shillings a week, but during the next few years there was a steady drop in wages.

NOTTINGHAM.

Extract of a letter, dated October 29. "In consequence of an expected riot in this Borough among the Frame-work Knitters (owing to their being dissatisfied at the present low wages they received), two troops of the Oxford Blues marched in from Peterborough on Monday; the appearance of the soldiers, the inhabitants were in hopes would have intimidated the Knitters, but we were deceived, for in the evening several boys paraded the streets, and broke a few windows, but were dispersed without any material mischief happening."

"On Tuesday we were seriously alarmed by the rising of a very numerous and outrageous mob, who proceeded to such acts of violence, as rendered it necessary for the military (whom they pelted with every thing they could get at) to fire on them, whereby many were dangerously wounded and upwards of 40 of the soldiers, among whom were several of the riot leaders, were taken and lodged in our goal."

"On Wednesday, the disturbance had not subsided; in this day's affray, one of the officers of the Blues was severely wounded by a glass bottle thrown at him. In short the whole place is in such confusion as you may better conceive, that I can in my present agitation of mind describe, for I every minute expect my frames to be destroyed, and my house, perhaps, pulled down. My hopes of seeing the quiet of the place re-established, revive at the sight of two more troops of horse who are now entering the town."

responsibility for the future development of the human assets which it employs?

The problem is highlighted further in the "Finance and Industry" editorial of the same date where it is noted that takeovers "... are running at an annual rate of £8 billion, nearly eight times the rate of four years ago and are running at some 40 per cent of domestic gross fixed capital formation".

Yours faithfully,
G. M. LEDINGHAM,
Hotley Rough,
Prestwood,
Great Missenden,
Buckinghamshire,
October 28.

Wing and a prayer

From Mr Arthur Fosh

Sir, Your Diarist remarks (October 30) on the problems seagulls are causing to the terrace at the House of Commons. A similar difficulty is experienced at Barbican with the pigeons, and the residents were urged by a notice placed in the lifts not to feed the birds "because of the problems that arise". Some wag had added, "You mean fall, surely?"

Where is a well-bred bird to go, as it were?

Yours faithfully,
ARTHUR FOSH,
605 Mountjoy House,
Barbican, EC2,
October 30.

How to keep the country clean and tidy



The public only thinks of individuals and motorists as the source of litter, but according to the Keep Britain Tidy Group there are seven sources in all, including household refuse put out for collection, handling and storage of commercial and industrial rubbish and waste, rubbish and waste on construction and demolition sites, careless loading and unloading of commercial vehicles, insecure and uncovered loads on travelling vehicles and last, pedestrians and motorists.

David Lewis, the director general of the KBTG, arrived in 1969, after a career in the Colonial Service. "I remember when I started with the group, I came to my office in the Strand about 9 o'clock in the morning and found the place awash with litter - and none of that had probably been put down by pedestrians or motorists."

"What I was looking at was the accumulation of the previous day's rubbish from the commercial and business offices put out for collection far too early, and by the time in the morning it was breaking loose from flimsy cardboard boxes and plastic bags because of passing pedestrians, heavy road traffic whistling by, and dogs. It was a shambles, because of the system of collection."

In those days it was, as he describes it, "a two-men and two-girls" operation, with exactly £24,000 a year to spend. "We weren't able to do very much with that," he says, so they went out and raised funds from commerce and business and, much heartened by the result, went back to what was then a super-Ministry of the Environment and Local Government under Peter Walker.

Government was impressed and increased the grant. The first year they had money to back their programmes was for 1972-73, "so we moved from slogans to programmes," says Mr Lewis, and began preparing their schools programme with Brighton Polytechnic, and also began setting up regional organizations. It started first with Keep Wales Tidy and Keep Scotland Tidy.

Their grant has been increased in the past three years, following eight weeks' inquiry by a government management team, enabling them to appoint more regional directors - one in the south from Dover to Land's End, one in the Midlands, and one in the North-east.

Unlike everyone else, they have no enemies. "Everyone is on our side - we have never been a political football, we've never had doors shut in our faces, the only differences are over methods." In this way the executive committee has representatives from government, local government, voluntary organizations, Girl Guides, the Institute of Waste Management, and many others.

Mr Lewis is a very persuasive man. If he can put down a pound, and have it covered by £99 from other people, he is happy. As he points out, the KBTG has no manpower, no muscle of its own, but it can put Lloyds Bank, with the finance, in touch with the Girl Guides, who have three quarters of a million members.

The KBTG will provide a tried and tested programme in its Community Environment programme and after that it is up to the local people, their enthusiasm and work, spurred on by the advice and staff of the KBTG, and involving all the key people in the community organizations, the churches, WI, the Trade Unions, the business sector, all engaged on what is their programme.

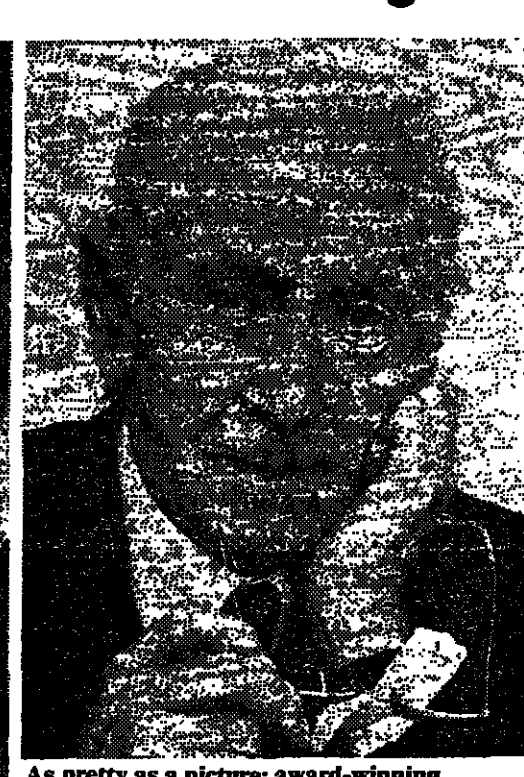
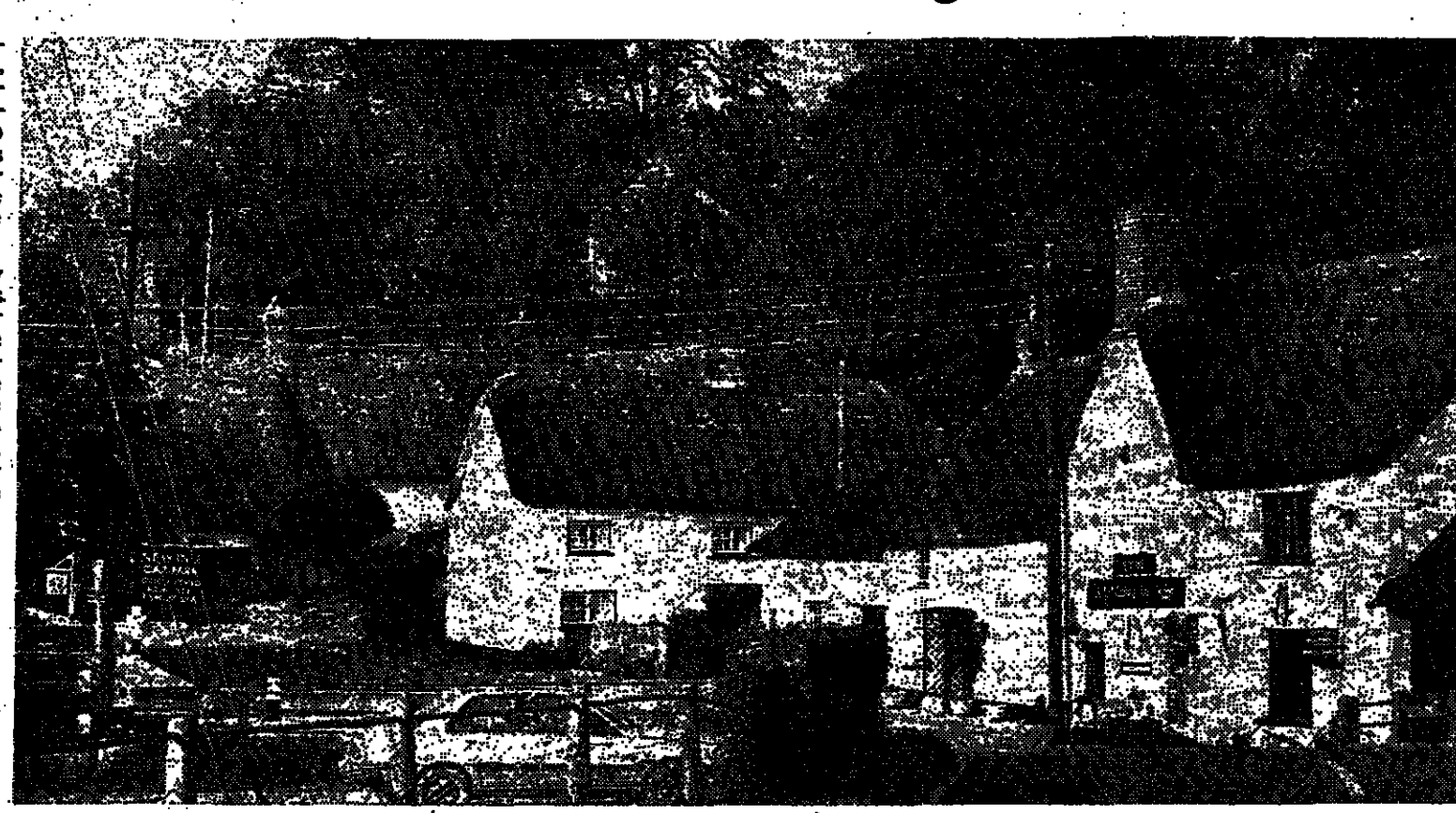
There are at present 600 local authorities already interested in the programmes and many others who are either consciously or unconsciously influenced by them.

The emphasis in the future may be in re-cycling and conservation - a positive view and a positive way of getting people engaged in good rubbish management practice.

"Litter is anarchy, the fall-out from the system. If the system is working properly, there should not be any need for litter at all, whether it is a cigarette packet, or an abandoned car."

Fortunately, everyone agrees with him.

Philip Toomey



As pretty as a picture: award-winning Sampford Courtenay, north Devon; and David Lewis (above), director general of the Keep Britain Tidy Group

Closing the lid on our massive maritime dustbin

The Londoner whose dying wish was to have his ashes scattered on the river Thames would no doubt be disconcerted to find his earthly remains classified today as "marine litter". The over-enthusiastic relative, who cast his cremation urn complete with contents to the waves, must take the blame.

The urn and ashes were washed ashore several months later on the North Devon coast. They were picked up by beachcombers acting as volunteers for a scientific research programme on the litter found along the British coastline. The urn is now listed in the growing catalogue of litter being drawn up by a Buckinghamshire environmentalist, Trevor Dixon, as evidence to lobby the Government into banning the dumping of waste at sea.

Mr Dixon, a senior lecturer in environmental studies at Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education, is director of the Keep Britain Tidy Group's Marine Litter Research Programme. It was set up 12 years ago to collect factual data on marine litter to show the need for international

agreements to prohibit the dumping of ships' waste at sea.

It is also aimed at improving the controls to both prevent and to deal with the accidental or deliberate loss of hazardous materials overboard.

Mr Dixon and his brother Tim, a nature reserve officer in Aberdeen, became involved with the problem of marine pollution as teenagers when they worked to save the lives of seabirds contaminated with oil. "Recent legislation prohibiting the dumping of waste oil at sea has greatly reduced the problem of oil pollution," Mr Dixon said. "But marine pollution in general is on the increase."

Much of the evidence collected for the research programme shows that Britain is a major culprit.

A survey of beaches along the Danish coast, the coast of Portugal and Brittany carried out by Mr Dixon showed that more litter originated from Britain than any other country. Forty-five per cent of all litter, the origin of which could be traced, was traced back to Britain.

"This does not necessarily mean the British are dumping more rubbish

than any other country," says Mr Dixon. "Much of the litter could have been the waste from stocks taken aboard at British ports. But it does mean that the provision of more waste disposal facilities at British ports and the acceptance of legislation in Britain to prohibit the dumping of waste at sea could cut the problem of marine pollution in certain areas by almost half."

Programme has been a failure

The immediate goal of the Marine Litter Research Programme is to persuade the Government to accept certain annexes to the MARPOL (Marine Pollution) Convention drawn up by the International Maritime Organization of the United Nations and partially ratified by 15 countries, including the United Kingdom, on October 2, 1983.

Mr Dixon admits that the programme has been a "dismal failure" so far in securing legislation.

He puts this unwillingness to accept legislation down to the beleaguered state of the British shipping industry.

But the cost of clearing up marine litter Mr Dixon describes as "astronomical in international terms". In Britain alone he estimates that the annual cost of clearing up our beaches is £4 million annually, with some local coastal authorities spending as much as £25,000-£30,000 a year.

The need for international legislation to tighten controls on the dumping of waste at sea is illustrated by some of the items of rubbish found along the Scottish coastline between 1979-80. Among the items were several oil refill cans for Canadian snowmobiles. Research showed that these were dumped on the ice during seal culls. They were washed south by the Labrador currents when the ice melted and were then carried 3,000 miles to be washed ashore on the Western Isles of Scotland.

The Marine Litter Research Programme conducted a 12-month survey jointly with the Advisory Committee on the Pollution of the Sea, an independent non-profit

making organization, on hazardous materials.

Of 254 suspected hazardous packages, recovered from beaches, 131 were found to be listed in the international Maritime Dangerous Goods Code.

One find on the beaches of Canvey Island, in Essex, which included used syringes, bottles of blood, soiled bandages and partly decomposed flesh, has already prompted some action by one health authority.

In a major incident affecting the whole Dorset coastline from October to December 1984, 140 dangerous packages, nearly all unmarked and containing hydrogen peroxide, concentrated hydrochloric acid and other inflammable liquids, were washed ashore without warning.

The contents of one drum exploded near enough to one woman to singe the fur of her dog and three children were taken to hospital with four council workers and a fireman after receiving chemical burns from handling the packages.

Christine Toomey

Blooming British Rail wins a trophy.

Three, in fact. We're proud to have won the Keep Britain Tidy Group's top award this year - the Queen Mother's Birthday Award Trophy - for 'an outstanding contribution to environmental improvement'.

We've also won their 1985 Premier Class Award for our support of the Beautiful Britain campaign.

And, recently, we've picked up a Special Award from the Business and Industry Panel for the Environment.

What have we done to deserve these awards? A great deal.

We've launched a nationwide anti-litter campaign on BR stations (making many of them Litter-Free Zones).

We've provided over 10,000 hanging flower-baskets at stations to brighten up your moments hanging around on platforms.

Best of all, we're spending over £3 million more this year on improving stations, matching pound-for-pound contributions from local communities, local WIs, and the private sector.

We've even provided environmental projects as training and work experience for the young unemployed.

We feel it's all worthwhile if it makes the railways more pleasant for you to travel on.

Admittedly, with so many stations and lines, there's a long way to go.

But we think you'll agree it's a blooming good start.



We're getting there.

Lessons for a throwaway society

The Community Environment Programme is a consciousness-raising exercise, targeted primarily at the place where people live and work - their home surroundings. Yet the programme itself has its origins in a growing awareness that the more conventional approach simply was not working.

Nowhere was this more apparent than in the work with schoolchildren, stretching back

to the first Keep Britain Tidy school committees in 1956. In the two decades from 1956 almost 10,000 school committees were formed, each with its posters and badges, each intended to be self-perpetuating and autonomous - run by children for children. Then, in 1977, came something of a shock. The first piece of research to analyse their impact found it to be singularly lacking.

There was worse to come. School committees depended too much on the enthusiasm of individual children or teachers. They were too limited in scope to retain children's interest and only temporarily effective in reducing litter. Teachers were unwilling to spend much time on "transient and non-educational" activities.

The group took the criticisms to heart. Mrs Cherry Mares, its

author, is now the head of Keep Britain Tidy's schools research project at Brighton Polytechnic - a project which, through its development, testing and refinement of environmental education kits for schoolchildren of all ages, has given the group a distinctive and highly formative role.

For those aged 4-7 there is *Look Around The Town*, complete with glove puppets and colourful street scenes. For older primary children there is *Litter: an Environmental Problem*. For secondary children there are units on paper, glass, metal, plastics and waste management and resources.

Look Around The Town introduces the very youngest children to biodegradability, to the properties - density, weathering - of different materials. With the secondary science units each carefully tailored to the curriculum, the stuff of headlines becomes the subject

Individuals to have a choice

of experiments: acid-rain, nitrates in drinking water, radioactive waste, straw-burning, environmental lead measurement.

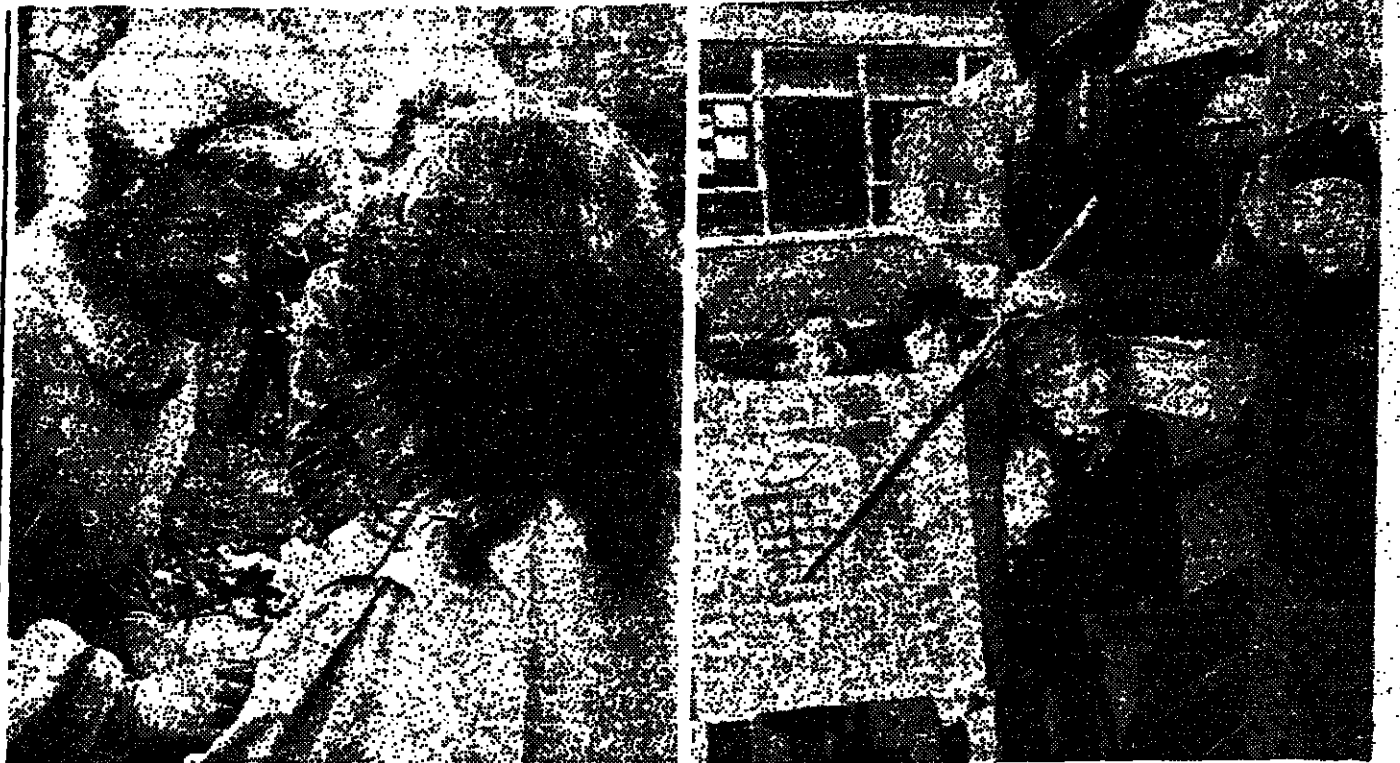
The primary aim, according to Robert Stephenson, the research fellow responsible, is to emphasise the power and the responsibility of the individual. "The individual does have a choice. We want to show kids that their decision on what to buy and what not to buy does have an effect, right through from the production process to the market-place."

Secondary schools, nevertheless remain harder to penetrate. The project's production - described by Mrs Mares as its most exciting and innovative - attempts to negotiate this hurdle and also demonstrates tellingly just how far Keep Britain Tidy has travelled since the days of the school committees.

It is called *Our Europe* and uses language exchange - valuable weeks abroad too often spent in a state of bored purposelessness - as its platform. The young traveller learns his language by studying the local environment.

Mrs Mares said: "We are getting children to understand that they are future citizens and that in a small way they can shape their environment."

David Nicholson-Lord



Putting the message across on conservation and keeping Britain tidy: Princess Michael of Kent at a tree-planting ceremony at Kew, and right, George Miller puts the dustman's view about clean streets to Scottish children

Litter becomes a dirty word



Deep in the valley something stirs. In Treherbert and Tyn-y-wydd they are hanging baskets of flowers. At Maerdy, they have made a

garden. In Ferndale a wildlife reserve is taking shape and up at Blaencwm, high on its mountainside, they are talking of tree planting and floral displays writes David Nicholson-Lord.

Pride of place goes to St Peter's Church at Pentre. The "cathedral of the Rhondda" is undergoing a massive facelift. Crumbling stonework and neglected grounds are giving way to landscaped gardens. Close by the Lady Chapel will be a mosaic in blue and gold - shaped as a roundel and suggestive of a pool, where strollers can look down, reflect and contemplate.

The greening of the valleys proceeds apace. The mines are closing and the search is on for replacement business. High on the list are tourism and high-technology industry. It is a story which could be repeated from many of Britain's older industrial areas.

In the Rhondda, and more than 60 other local authorities throughout the country, the campaign against litter has been taken on remarkable new dimensions. It has not merely grown much bigger - thanks largely, it must be said, to the Manpower Services Commission. It is also sending out roots much deeper into community life.

In 1980, Keep Britain Tidy launched its community environment programme - described accurately but unglamorously by its chairman, Lord Ezra of Hornham, as a "radical approach designed primarily for local authority implementation, but incorporating programmes to include all sectors of the community".

Three years later the programme was enormously reinforced by the establishment of the community programme agency, grant-aided by the MSC. In the agency's first year it employed 703 staff, a figure that has now risen to 900.

Social psychology research also suggested that permanent attitude and behaviour change were more likely to result from active participation than passive involvement.

Dr Christina Hill, director of development and training for Keep Britain Tidy, with national responsibility for the Community Environment Programme (CEP), makes the contrast with the old-fashioned approach.

She says: "Officers and councillors sitting in a town hall on their own cannot hope to solve the litter problem without involving the community. You really have to go beyond that to bring in other sectors, set up smaller groups. They need not be formally constituted committees. You don't need a big bureaucracy."

There is, in fact, no instant

recipe for success. There are broad strategies and ground rules - for example, careful advance preparations so that a launch is not followed by months of silence and inactivity. But people and neighbourhoods differ: each area has to fill in its own fine print.

To help them to do so, since May 1981 Keep Britain Tidy has run 30 three-day residential courses for senior council officers near its headquarters in Brighton and made roughly the same number of presentations through county or regional councils.

Industry plays an important role

Of 146 authorities represented on courses, 66 have formally adopted the programme and 22 are near to doing so.

"We are a catalyst," says Ian Eldridge, deputy director-general of the group and the man in

charge of the agency. But he acknowledges: "Being able to take on the community programme and employ 900 people has extended our influence enormously."

"As far as Keep Britain Tidy is concerned, there are only 25 of us in the whole country. Before the agency was set up, we could only produce the research programmes and get other people to take them."

Some authorities have been sufficiently impressed with results to make the MSC posts permanent staff positions: Leicester and North Tyneside are examples. The advantages work both ways. The work is invaluable experience for school-leavers. In Wales, meanwhile, out of 286 teachers working for the agency over a three-year period, 232 have found permanent jobs.

Yet, as with the educational programme in schools, which forms part of the CEP, a central theme is that litter alone is not a sufficient focus. Hence, Keep

Britain Tidy and its MSC staff have moved increasingly into the business of comprehensive environmental awareness.

For Judith Bevan, co-ordinator of the Rhondda Community Environmental Improvement Scheme - reduced under the pressure of valley argot - to "Keep on The Tidy", the business is tourism. Mrs Bevan, a valley girl born and bred, believes if change can happen in the Rhondda it can happen anywhere.

"A lot of people say the Rhondda is not worth taking care of. We have had housing and bad roads. The valley exploded with the coal revolution and now it is dying. Litter is a very small part of what is wrong."

"But if you have a stake in that community - if you or your children have planted up an area which was previously a dump - you are far more likely to be angry if it is dumped on again."

RHM

RHM congratulates the
Keep Britain Tidy Group

on its work for
the public good.



RHM

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Meet the Grubbies. They are a lovable bunch of cartoon rogues who have spearheaded an annual tidiness competition amongst more than 50 Blue Circle cement works and distribution depots in the UK. While Blue Circle's reputation is very much an international one, the Company tries to remember its local responsibilities.

The Grubbies play an important role in encouraging the highest day to day housekeeping standards. But they are just part of an extensive annual UK environmental programme which also includes planting thousands of trees; restoring worked out quarries for leisure or for farming and encouraging others to care through sponsorship of schemes which range from school tree nurseries to farm building restoration.

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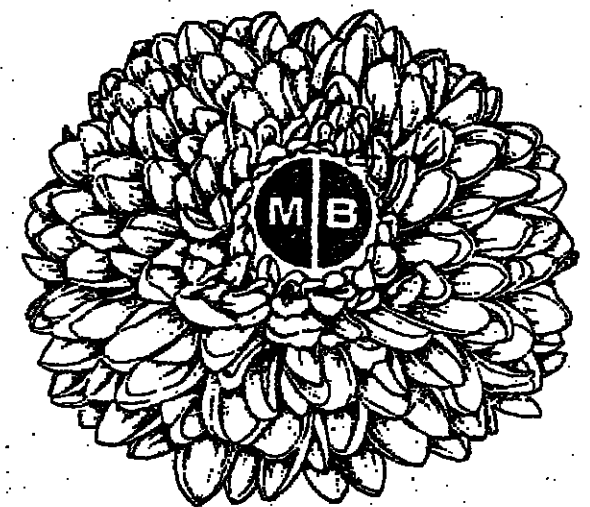
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our bit to make
Britain's bus
stations beautiful



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NATIONAL

In association with:
Bus & Coach Council
Beautiful Britain campaign
Townswomen's Guild



Having been actively involved with the Keep Britain Tidy Group from its earliest days, Metal Box is delighted to join in celebrating Beautiful Britain In Bloom's coming of age.

Naming the winners in a gardeners' world



At noon today in the oak-panelled India Room of the Royal Overseas League headquarters in London, Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, will announce the 1985 winners of the coveted Beautiful Britain in Bloom awards.

The awards will mark the highlight in several ambitious gardeners' careers. Despite one of the worst summers on record, competition for the awards this year has been fierce - 1985 is the year the competition comes of age celebrating its 21st anniversary.

Apart from the personal satisfaction of winning, for amateur and professional gardeners alike, the Britain in Bloom awards are becoming increasingly sought-after for the boost they inevitably give to a village, town or city's tourism potential. The growing number of applicants in the competition's five categories is a mark of this at a time when, in some areas, tourism is the only growth industry. The competition, organized at the suggestion of a former gardening correspondent for *The Times*, Roy Hay - who had been impressed by a similar competition held in France - attracted just 10 entrants. This year 676 towns, cities and villages entered.

Initially, the competition was organized and run by the British Tourist Authority. Three years ago the coordination and final judging was taken over by the non-profit-making Keep Britain Tidy Group.

Jenny Crossland, coordinator and representative on the panel of judges for the Keep Britain Tidy Group, said: "The competition has a wider purpose than simply promoting the planting of more flowers and trees in our towns and villages. It is part of a wider campaign to make people more aware."

Belfast, Crewe and Aberdeen are among this year's 26 finalists, along with more predictable contenders such as Torquay and Lympstone in Devon, St Flora and Usk in Wales and Fala and Kirkcaldy in Scotland.

And 'Childs', a competition judge for 17 years, commented: "It is very difficult for a town like Crewe to throw off the image of being simply a railway junction, but even ranking as a finalist in this competition will encourage more motorists to make a stop there, when before they would have passed the town by."

The one-street Yorkshire village of Patey Bridge-with-Bewerley won the best village award in 1983 and has been transformed by the number of tea-shops, guest houses and other facilities catering to the coach-loads of tourists who now flock to visit it on their tours.

The winner in each of the five categories - city, large town, small town, large village and small village - is then submitted by the British Tourist Authority for international scrutiny the following year in the *Entente*

tions-have had in providing local communities with incentives to improve their environment has also prompted the Keep Britain Tidy Group to set up its own environmental achievement award scheme.

To mark the 80th birthday four years ago of the Queen Mother, patron of the Keep Britain Tidy Group, the scheme was named the Queen Mother's Birthday Awards. They go to voluntary organizations, companies, local authorities, statutory and other bodies, youth groups and individuals to mark "outstanding effort in promoting environmental improvement, particularly through litter abatement and involvement in the Beautiful Britain campaign."

British Rail won the trophy this year for a major anti-litter campaign. Spearheaded by television personalities Kenny Everett and Roland Rat, the scheme designated 70 litter-free zones as an experiment in major tourist areas.

The highest proportion of those dropping litter on stations were young people", a British Rail official said. "We were looking for a light-hearted way of getting the message across that there is nothing clever about dropping litter and it seems to have worked."

British Rail also launched partnership schemes offering to match local authority and community groups to improve the railways and stations. In 1984 a total of £9 million was spent on these schemes. The National Federation of Women's Institutes launched a huge partnership scheme this year with British Rail.

Another leading award this year went to College Town Junior School in Sandhurst, Berkshire, where a group of 30 children adopted a country lane notorious as a spot for dumping rubbish. The nine to 11-year-olds cleared 30 tonnes of rubbish from the site. Not content with this, the children went on to lobby Bracknell District Council for a grant to erect a gate at the end of the lane to stop access to it by car.

The success of these compe-



The lord provost of Glasgow, Robert Gray, aided by hordes of cubs, launches Glasgow Central Station as a litter-free zone

Hannah's clean-up campaign on the bonny banks

During an uncharacteristically fine weekend last June on the bonny banks of Loch Lomond, Hannah Stirling embarked on her annual litter dragnet. From the bonny banks themselves she collected 20 skipfuls, 10 from each side, and from the islands dotted around the loch another 140 sacks, on the Sunday alone. It was no bad thing that Mrs Stirling did not venture forth unaccompanied.

Her clean-up operation had all the hallmarks of the traditional keep-Britain-tidy approach: the military

clat, the triumph against apparently overwhelming odds, the evident relish with the spoils of victory. If the fight against litter conjures up one image above all others, it is that of worthy figures in uniform, black bags at the ready and noses slightly upturned, battling for Queen and country against the forces of philistinism. The reality, however, is slightly more complex.

A former Wren, Mrs Stirling has a cheerfully brisk Scots manner and is not averse to telling people off - in the nicest possible way - when they drop

cigarette packets or paper bags. Seven years ago she founded the Friends of Loch Lomond to fight a hydro-electric scheme and she is now its president. Two years ago she was Queen Mother's Birthday award-winner for outstanding efforts in litter abatement. Hers is a typical and honourable story of voluntary contribution to public life.

The public life in question, however, is that of Loch Lomond. The loch is the weekend and holiday playground for thousands of Glaswegians, who come in many cases, to park their cars, picnic

and pollute. For them the loch is that peculiar form of public property known as a beauty spot. For Mrs Stirling, who has lived on its shores for 20 years, it is her home.

Therein lies a lesson and it is one that has slowly permeated the Keep Britain Tidy group over the last decade, culminating in the launch of the Community Environment Programme in 1980. However many annual clean-ups of the loch Mrs Stirling undertakes, the litter keeps on coming back.

Happy Birthday
from the
Sponsors



Barratt



**We've helped him
to keep Britain
tidy since 1966.**



Britain at its best.

A big hand from the tourist industry



For helping Britain look its best.

The Beautiful Britain In Bloom Competition makes our cities, towns and villages more attractive for millions of British people and visitors from overseas, thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of countless individuals, local authorities and other organisations throughout the country. On the occasion of the 21st

anniversary of the competition the British Tourist Authority, the English Tourist Board and the Wales Tourist Board extend congratulations and best wishes for future success to all who contribute to Britain In Bloom and especially to the KEEP BRITAIN TIDY GROUP who now organise the competition.



HOW TO TURN AN EYESORE INTO A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES

If you ever find yourself in Gowerdon, near Swansea, you might pass by a rolling meadow. It's a very special rolling meadow. It used to be a dump. Literally. Originally, it was the site of the Elba Steelworks, which was no beauty. Then they closed down and, worse, Gowerdon became a dumping ground for shale waste from the collieries nearby.

Glyn Low in the Peak District National Park and West Ayrton in the North York Moors National Park are similar stories.

Only yesterday, one was a disused limestone quarry and the other a derelict deep sand and gravel works.

Today, though, they're the stuff of picture postcards. Some of the prettiest caravan sites in Britain.

So what happened? Well, we cleared them, sowed grass, planted thousands of trees and shrubs and spent over a million pounds. We did it because we are committed to creating a more beautiful Britain. We'd like to acknowledge the co-operation of the Derbyshire County Council, the Lliw Valley Borough Council and the North York Moors National Park. We'd like to thank the Keep Britain Tidy Group, who sponsor the Queen Mother's Birthday Trophy which we won for our trio of efforts last year. And we'd like to thank 'The Times' and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, who handed us a Certificate of Commendation in their Conservation Awards for 1985.

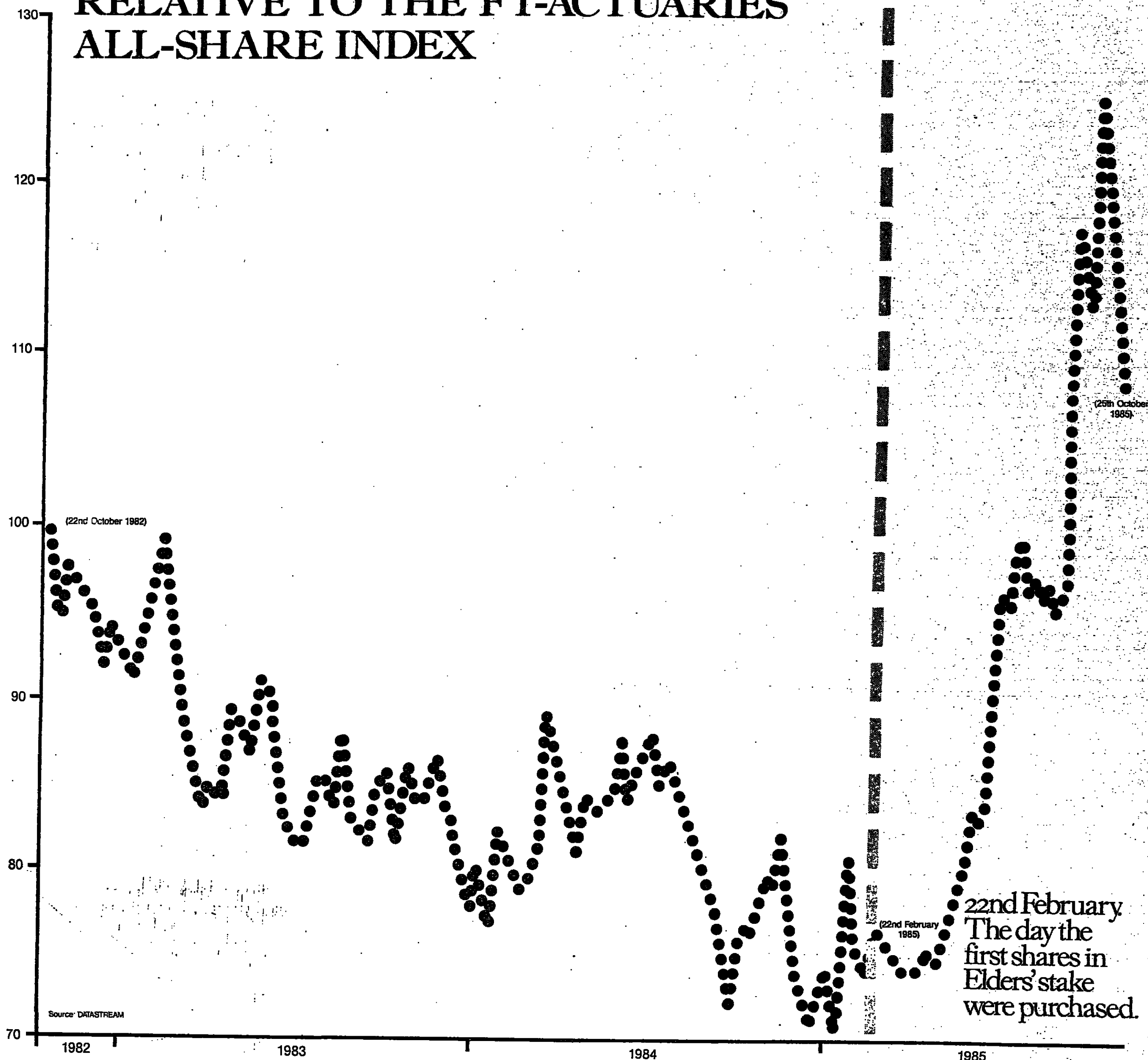
It's nice to have your work appreciated.



The Caravan Club

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ALLIED-LYONS SHARE PERFORMANCE RELATIVE TO THE FT-ACTUARIES ALL-SHARE INDEX



Who do you think has tipped the balance for Allied shares?

ALLIED-LYONS.
LOOK AT BOTH SIDES. THEN DECIDE.

Elders IXL

هكذا من الأهل

TEMPUS

Oxford Instruments finds gold in a new factory

In launching an investment trust now, Savory Mill, the broker, is hoping to combine two attractive investment trends in one offering. First, there is the German market, up by 50 per cent so far this year, and second, an investment trust, the latest in a busy stream.

Together these provide a promising start for the new company. The German Securities Investment Trust, Savory Mill and its co-sponsor, Lichtenstein (UK), nevertheless feel it necessary to offer inducements in the form of warrants, a potentially fixed life and partly paid shares.

After all, trends can reverse. The shares are offered at 100p, fully paid, but after expenses they will be backed by assets of only 96p. If the experience of the recently launched German Smaller Companies Trust is anything to go by, the shares will soon trade below asset value, though these inducements might narrow the discount slightly.

To the villagers of Eynsham, which nestles on the outskirts of Oxford, the new high technology factory built there by Oxford Instruments is something of an eyesore. Its modern design is a stark contrast to the nearby toll bridge which, as a legacy of royal favours in the past, still collects 2p from crossing motorists. It may come as some surprise to the villagers that just as the toll bridge is something of a gold mine for its new owner, the new factory is even more lucrative for Oxford Instruments.

Yesterday's interim results demonstrated the extent of the riches to be found there, as the company reported pretax profits of £6.7 million up from £2.3 million. The figures took the City by surprise, outstripping forecasts, and the shares rose up 43p to close at 391p.

A big factor was the benefit from 'consolidating the company's imaging magnet operations under one roof at Eynsham. Not only was the disruption caused by that move in the first half of last year absent this time, but the company is also achieving much more efficient production. Add to that an increase in sales and it is easy to see why profits increased so dramatically.

To concentrate just on the imaging magnet production is, however, an injustice to Ox-

ford Instruments' other operations. Certainly the magnets still account for about 50 per cent of the group's business but it is no longer realistic to describe it as a one-product concern.

The traditional instruments business doubled its profits in the half year and the medical activities also prospered. The Japanese joint venture is approaching break-even and should make a small contribution in the second half. It leaves the group looking much better balanced, with a spread of interests which leave it well placed to advance on a broader front.

In the full year Oxford Instruments should make pretax profits of around £16 million. After yesterday's big leap in the share price there may be a temptation to leave the shares alone for the time being. That temptation should be resisted: the shares should still be bought for the long term.

Associated British Foods

The stock market is often quicker to criticize than praise. A case in point is Associated British Foods which yesterday announced better-than-expected results but was rewarded with only a 2p increase in the share price to 270p.

When ABF withdrew from South Africa in 1983 analysts were disappointed, especially by the poor returns from the £200 million plus proceeds. Now it is apparent that ABF showed enormous foresight by selling out when it did. And its investment managers have at last started to make the cash work.

A £5 million increase in investment income helped profits rise from £53.6 million to £62.4 million before tax in the six months to September.

Fine Fare, the retailing arm, did particularly well with the manufacturing side falling along more slowly thanks to problems with frozen foods. Overall trading profits from the home businesses were up by a tenth while overseas profits fell slightly.

New stores should ensure further growth on the retailing side, but the effect of this year's low quality harvest could make progress from baking and milling more difficult.

One slight surprise in yesterday's announcement was a

higher-than-expected tax charge. Overseas tax was higher even though profits were lower.

This should not blind investors to the company's fundamental attractions. Though 40 per cent of profits come from retailing it is valued alongside pure manufacturers, with the shares selling on 12 times earnings, assuming profits reach £155 million this year. The retailing side merits a premium.

Geers Gross

Geers Gross is about to embark on one of its most important advertising campaigns. The product is its own shares and the target audience is the City of London. The message will be that Geers Gross is ripe for recovery but if it is to be believed the company will need to summon up all the creative expertise it can muster.

The Geers Gross story must be told against a background of falling turnover, profits and dividends, a 75 per cent reduction in net assets, management upheaval and the loss of a leading client.

Yesterday's interim pretax profits of £307,000 down from £783,000 did nothing to restore confidence in a company which had clearly lost its way. Even after cutting the interim dividend by 25 per cent Geers Gross still had to dip into reserves to help finance it.

Had the company not decided to change its accounting policy on goodwill and write it all off against reserves rather than amortize it, the entire dividend would have had to be paid from reserves.

As it is Geers Gross will write off the £9.5 million against reserves, although it is still not sure, which, leaving net assets at less than £2 million.

To counter this, Geers Gross can only offer the promise that it has resolved its managerial and financial control problems and that it is well positioned to do much better next year. The sincerity of these claims is not in question but, given recent performance, there must be doubt about the company's ability to fulfil them.

There may be some speculative interest in the shares, up 3p at 79p, even though the management insists the company is not for sale, but that aside, the immediate prospects are poor.

Rig charges 'unlikely to increase'

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

Despite a high level of oil and gas activity in the North Sea in the coming year the surplus of drilling rigs is likely to continue, and charter rates for rigs are unlikely to increase, according to Wood Mackenzie, the broker.

After a survey in which over 90 per cent of the oil companies operating in the North Sea took part, Wood Mackenzie suggests that charter rates for the big semi-submersible drilling rigs should remain at their 1985 level of around \$25,000 a day.

Rates for jack-up rigs, which have been in higher demand because of increased exploration in the shallower southern sector, should remain at around \$25,000 a day. A large number of such rigs are now available worldwide.

Wood Mackenzie also suggests that more big semi-submersible rigs might be withdrawn from exploration for conversion to production platforms for the several smaller fields now being considered for production.

Three semi-submersible rigs have been converted into floating production systems for the Argyll, Buchan and Innes fields, and similar projects are planned for the Ettrick and Rob Roy-Ivanhoe fields.

Royal Ordnance names brokers

Royal Ordnance, the arms manufacturer due to be privatized by the Government next June, has appointed Cazenove & Co and Greaveson, Grant & Co as joint brokers to the company.

Lazard Brothers & Co has already been appointed merchant bank to the company and the Government is expected to confirm shortly the appointment of NM Rothschild & Sons as merchant bank to the issue, which is expected to raise about £200 million.

Selling fails to dampen shares

By Pam Spooner

Share prices stayed at record levels yesterday, although profit-takers did their best during the day to knock equities backward as the second week of the account got under way.

Worries about the Mexican debt crisis did not help. The peso has been hit on the foreign exchanges and bankers fear that the country will not meet its foreign debt repayments and will have to reschedule loans yet again.

Banking shares were hurt by the news, with prices of the big four clearingers dropping between 5p and 10p. Blue Circle Industries was also knocked by Mexican problems. The group has a large cement making capacity in the country, and will be hurt by any further decline in industrial and development activity. BCI shares dropped 20p to 578p at one stage, though by the end of the day they had recouped a few pence to 585p.

Insurance companies were helped by renewed bullishness from leading analysts, and prices across the life and composite sectors were showing double-figure gains. General Accident was a particular target after a broker upgraded profit forecasts, and the GA price rose 10p to 703p.

By the end of the day the FT 30-share index was 0.5 points up at 1071.1, and the FT-SE 100 share market 1.9 points higher at 1380.9. Prices of government stocks were little changed.

Associated British Foods showed no response to its profits news, the shares staying unchanged at 268p. But other food companies were on the move, with Cadbury-Schweppes rising 7p at one stage on stories

from New York about a possible bid for the company.

Cadbury looks vulnerable to an offer, but suggestions that Goldman Sachs, the US banker which helped launch American depository receipts in the group's shares, is trying to put a bid together have been strongly denied. Nevertheless, by the end of the day Cadbury shares were still 4p up at 150p.

Avana Group stayed at 619p after last week's bullishness from Laurie Milbank, the broker. But other City firms

steadily reduced their reliance on dairy earnings in recent years.

Cambridge Electronic Industries slipped 3p to 215p as one leading broker cut its profit forecast after a recent look at the company. CEI made £11.9 million in 1984 but is likely to see profits drop to £10.5 million this year, the City firm says.

Eleco-Trol, the US subsidiary which makes replay equipment, is being hurt by continued weakness in the computer and test equipment markets and is likely to lose around one million dollars. Slow demand on the components side is not helping CEI and the broker says slippage in the price to £180p is possible.

Prices elsewhere in the electrical sector were mixed, with pennies trimmed from Crystalline Holdings and Sars Computer. But STC responded to City hopes of recovery and rose 7p to 85p. Analysts have good tales to tell about the ICL side of the business, and also believe STC shares have bottomed out. Talk of a bid for the venerable-looking group does no harm to the shares.

Oxford Instruments jumped 43p to 391p alongside its news of nearly trebled profits for the half year. V. G. Instruments followed the Oxford price rise, adding 8p to 346p. Hopes that BAT Industries will sell its controlling stake in V. G. to a bidder continue to underpin the price.

Southern Diffusion was in less vibrant form, falling 5p to 41p as its interim profits showed a 50 per cent decline. The share price had run ahead last week in hopes of somewhat better news.

Channel Tunnel Investments

shares weakened again, falling 20p to 180p with the market becoming anxious about where the price will end. Although the group is still associated with projects for the Anglo-French link, it is not involved in the latest round of tenders and will benefit only if one of the old proposals it has backed wins the contract.

Directors of the company have done their best to make this clear to shareholders, feeling that the current share price is much too high. They

Hickson International shares fell 25p to 331p after Phillips & Drew the broker downgraded its profit forecast for the company. Phillips & Drew thinks third quarter trading has been very poor and that Hickson will make just £13.5 million pretax this year against £15 million last year. The chemical group is being affected by a slow down in export orders, South African currency problems and write downs in tin stocks.

point out that assets per share of CTI are mainly cash and gilts and worth around 17p.

Dufay Bitumastic shares dipped 2p to 56p alongside the agreed takeover offer from British Tar Products. The bid is worth 54 BTP shares for every 100 of Dufay, and there is a cash alternative of 55.65p. BTP shares dipped 3p to 109p.

Shares in Marley, the building materials supplier, were on the move, rising 4 1/2p to 109 1/2p. The market is hearing again that the company may float off its valuable Payless DIY offshoot.

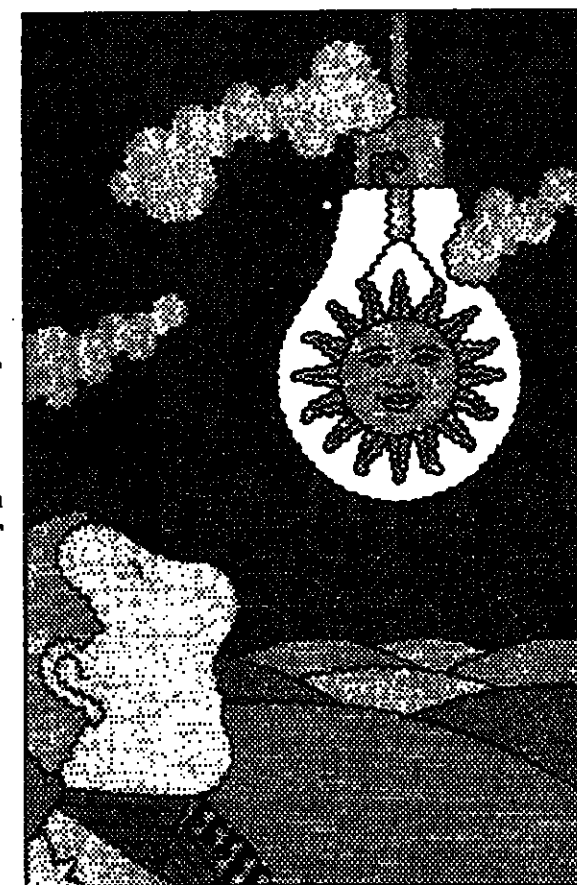
RECENT ISSUES

Closing Price	Issue	Price
102	Amalgamated 5p Ord (50)	55-3
102	Amalgamated 5p Ord (50)	55-3
102	Amalgamated 5p Ord (50)	55-3
102	Amalgamated 5p Ord (50)	55-3
102	Amalgamated 5p Ord (50)	55-3
102	Amalgamated 5p Ord (50)	55-3
102	Amalgamated 5p Ord (50)	55-3
102	Amalgamated 5p Ord (50)	55-3
102	Amalgamated 5p Ord (50)	55-3
102	Amalgamated 5p Ord (50)	55-3

Traded option highlights

Traded options business slumped yesterday, reflecting the day's quieter market tone after last week's record share price levels. Nevertheless, Countdown options stay popular and provided 1,800 of the total 9,029 contracts traded. The

Sun Life: lighting the way with new ideas



Even in an industry brimming with ideas Sun Life's record of innovation stands out. Our new range of unit trusts, for example, isn't just new.

It's uniquely different. In a two-tier approach, we're offering the first-time investor three managed funds - each with pass book, easy withdrawal and a 'loyalty' bonus.

While our eight specialist funds, where advice and planning are essential, will be sold only by intermediaries.

It's a typically entrepreneurial approach to what we see as opportunities in today's frenetic financial scene - not problems.

An innovative outlook has spearheaded our tripling of total group funds, in just six years, to over £3 billion in 1984, and our remarkable dividend growth record of over 20% p.a. compound since 1974. In fact, Sun Life was the number one performer in the City Growth League over the decade 1975-1985 (Management Today, August 1985).

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New unit trust range uniquely designed for the first-time, as well as experienced, investor.

New Flexible Transfer Trust for much simpler CTT planning.

T-Plan for 'frozen' pensions.

Flexible Cover Plan, a 'policy for life' with an exceptionally wide range of options.

Flexible Mortgage Plan, with-profits or unit-linked, and now accepted by most major building societies.

For more information about one of Britain's most successful life and pensions offices, contact: Alan Bell, Sun Life Assurance Society plc, 107 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DU. Telephone: 01-606 7788.

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Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	11 1/2%
Adrian & Company	11 1/2%
BCCI	11 1/2%
Clubbank Savings	12 1/2%
Continental Trust	11 1/2%
Co-operative Bank	11 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	11 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	11 1/2%
Nat Westminster	11 1/2%
Royal Bank Scotland	11 1/2%
TSB	11 1/2%
Citibank NA	11 1/2%

1. Mortgage Base Rate.

APPOINTMENTS

British Airways: Mr Robert Ayling has been made legal director.
Ladbroke Group: Mr Jerry O'Mahony becomes head of corporate finance.
Cement and Concrete Association: Dr Gordon Marshall is to succeed Mr Basil Gwyn as chairman.
C. T. Bowring & Company: Mr L. P. Reese has been appointed group treasurer.
Royal Doulton: Mr Leo Barrow joins the board as commercial director.
Norwich Brewery Company: Mr David Jacobs becomes managing director.
Caledonian Hotel Holdings: Mr Michael Brooker is managing director of CHH's new subsidiary, Copthorne Hotels.
MAI: Mr Nick Cosh has joined the board as group finance director. Mr Alan Taylor has been made commercial director of Mills & Allen Money Broker.
Metal Box: Mr R Greenbury and Mr E W Parker have been appointed non-executive directors.
Geers Gross: Mr Henry Wasilak has joined the board.
Eurolink Computer Services: Mr Peter Brandt has been made director of sales (North American operations).
Cookson Group: Mr Nigel Mobbs joins the board.
Royal London Mutual Insurance Society: Mr J D Rowland, has been appointed a non-executive director.
Rapra Technology: Dr Malcolm Copley will succeed Dr J F Berry as chief executive and managing director next year.
Manders (Holdings): Mr D Wainwright has been made deputy chairman.
Lesser Design & Build: Mr R W Giles joins the board and will succeed Mr Bill Wheeler as construction director.
Benn Brothers: Mr Harry King has joined the board.
Deloitte Haskins & Sells: Mr David Beunett, Mr Richard Burns and Mrs Betty Nicholson become new partners in London as do Mr Alastair Browne and Mr Arthur Henderson in Belfast. Mr Selji Furne has been appointed executive director of Japanese services.
Waverley Asset Management: Mr Peter Bucher becomes executive director.
Dewey Warren Holdings: Mr C J Baker has joined the board as a non-executive director.

5th November 1985.

An open letter to
Mr Ian MacGregor,
Chairman of the
National Coal Board.

Dear Ian MacGregor,

POLKEMMET COLLIERY, WHITEBURN, WEST LOTHIAN

West Lothian District Council requests a meeting with you to discuss the future of Polkemmet Colliery before the final stages of the colliery review procedure.

As you have been aware since the beginning of September, an Independent Public Inquiry has found that Polkemmet has a viable economic future and it is our belief that the Inquiry Report must be considered by the National Coal Board in the interests of the National Coal Board and we feel that the Inquiry Report should be taken into account.

The Scottish Area Director of the Inquiry Report and we have been unable to obtain an appointment to meet you. We have therefore taken the unprecedented step of publishing this letter request for a meeting with you.

Yours sincerely,

West Lothian District Council

West Lothian District Council, Bathgate, West Lothian.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
1	Jardine Matheson	11.75	11.50	11	11.75	11.50	21	11.75	11.50
2	Gyward	11.75	11.50	12	11.75	11.50	22	11.75	11.50
3	Evode	11.75	11.50	13	11.75	11.50	23	11.75	11.50
4	Maroon	11.75	11.50	14	11.75	11.50	24	11.75	11.50
5	Johnson Matthey	11.75	11.50	15	11.75	11.50	25	11.75	11.50
6	Holt Lloyd	11.75	11.50	16	11.75	11.50	26	11.75	11.50
7	Hunting Assoc	11.75	11.50	17	11.75	11.50	27	11.75	11.50
8	Eleco	11.75	11.50	18	11.75	11.50	28	11.75	11.50
9	Eis	11.75	11.50	19	11.75	11.50	29	11.75	11.50
10	English China Clay	11.75	11.50	20	11.75	11.50	30	11.75	11.50
11	Habrun Mothercare	11.75	11.50	21	11.75	11.50	31	11.75	11.50
12	Reckitt	11.75	11.50	22	11.75	11.50	32	11.75	11.50
13	Dunhill	11.75	11.50	23	11.75	11.50	33	11.75	11.50
14	Owen Owen	11.75	11.50	24	11.75	11.50	34	11.75	11.50
15	Hepworth (U)	11.75	11.50	25	11.75	11.50	35	11.75	11.50
16	Freemans	11.75	11.50	26	11.75	11.50	36	11.75	11.50
17	GUS	11.75	11.50	27	11.75	11.50	37	11.75	11.50
18	Five Art Dev	11.75	11.50	28	11.75	11.50	38	11.75	11.50
19	Steinberg	11.75	11.50	29	11.75	11.50	39	11.75	11.50
20	Dewhurst (U)	11.75	11.50	30	11.75	11.50	40	11.75	11.50
21	FOODS	11.75	11.50	31	11.75	11.50			
22	Hillside	11.75	11.50	32	11.75	11.50			
23	Tesco	11.75	11.50	33	11.75	11.50			
24	Needles	11.75	11.50	34	11.75	11.50			
25	Salvesen (China)	11.75	11.50	35	11.75	11.50			
26	Fisher (Albert)	11.75	11.50	36	11.75	11.50			
27	Low (Wm)	11.75	11.50	37	11.75	11.50			
28	Kwik Save	11.75	11.50	38	11.75	11.50			
29	Nichols (U) (Vint)	11.75	11.50	39	11.75	11.50			
30	Basnet Foods	11.75	11.50	40	11.75	11.50			
31	INDUSTRIALS A-D	11.75	11.50						
32	Buena	11.75	11.50						
33	Ashted	11.75	11.50						
34	Babcock	11.75	11.50						
35	Desoutter	11.75	11.50						
36	Charter Com	11.75	11.50						
37	Booker McConnell	11.75	11.50						
38	Brook St Bureau	11.75	11.50						
39	Ash & Lacey	11.75	11.50						
40	Berford (S&W)	11.75	11.50						
41	Cookson	11.75	11.50						

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £30,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

BRITISH FUNDS

1985 High Low Company Price Chg % Price Chg % Price Chg % Price Chg % Price Chg % Price Chg %

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	%
11.75	11.50	11	11.75	11.50		11.75	11.50	21	11.75	11.50	

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1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chg	%
11.75	11.50	11	11.75	11.50		11.75	11.50	21	11.75	11.50	

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Prices hold their ground

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Oct 28. Dealings End, Nov 8. Contango Day, Nov 11. Settlement Day, Nov 18.
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem. This involves gathering information about the situation and understanding the needs of the stakeholders involved.

COMPANY NEWS

purchase of 25.1 per cent of C.T. Group, the board reports that as a

FACTS: For the half-year to June 30, with figures in £000, turnover was

MAKING MILLIONS

NETWORK UNCOVERED

RURAL LOCATION

It looks much like any other peaceful rural area; a pleasant mixture of towns and countryside and a mature society cheerfully tending its daily affairs. Beautiful houses line the streets, there's plenty to do, and the pace of life is comfortable.

SECRET ORGANISATIONS

But beneath this calm exterior lies an organisation of local businessmen and councillors working together to create the ideal business environment. They're able to count on the support and co-operation of a skilled and dedicated workforce that has adapted rapidly to changing modern needs.

Name_____

Company_____

The paradox is that, although national regulatory bodies, for example the emerging Securities and Investments

which is poetic justice for Malaysia after its failed market manipulation of 1982. At the moment the strain is effectively being taken by the banks, and their patience is stretched. The JTC has collapsed, and the issue is whether it will be revived.

The LME, in a stretched mess for which it is blameless, is thus sensible in making no assumptions about what will emerge from the ITC meeting. By closing the market until the weekend the exchange has given itself a breathing space in which to consider whether to resume tin trading next Monday.

But the evidence suggests that, should trading restart, it will do so in the most disastrous circumstances.

Michael Prest



FAMOUS NAMES

So it's not surprising that such famous names as Ford, Weetabix, Avon and Barclaycard have been quietly getting on with being successful in this idyllic rural setting, known locally as Northamptonshire.

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Do the eyes have it in the VDU controversy?

The health and safety of computer terminal users has once more come to the fore. A new lobby group called the VDU Workers' Rights Campaign will be pressing for legislation to ensure that users work only a four-hour day and that such workstations are ergonomically designed.

The group is backed by eight Labour Members of Parliament and a number of trade unions. The group has expressed anxiety about problems - which doctors and computer specialists are now studying - in environments where employees operate terminals for long periods. The lobby group wants a 15-minute break after each hour of VDU exposure.

The fears are based on evidence of stress among terminal operators. Eye strain, headache, backache and long-term vision problems are claimed. More serious is the belief that electromagnetic radiation from terminals causes miscarriages.

There is conflicting opinion about whether the small amounts of radiation - within the international safety standards and on a par with a television set - can have a direct effect on pregnancy.

A recent conference at Loughborough University of Technology emphasised the uncertainty. Brian Pearce, a researcher at the Department of

Human Sciences, drew attention to the lack of proper medical evidence.

He said: "The research that is required to investigate these possible health hazards is only a small part of the immense research effort needed in computer ergonomics."

Loughborough has been studying the ergonomics of computer systems for several years and has found that its expertise is increasingly sought by those who have installed systems which after some years have proved to be seriously unsound in ergonomic terms.

THE WEEK

by Bill Johnstone
 Technology Correspondent

This issue was important enough for the British Medical Journal to devote a principal editorial to the problem last month.

The author, Professor W. R. Lee, professor of Occupational Health at the University of Manchester, indicated early complaints from operators concerned visual and posture problems. Traditional office lighting and furniture, designed for workers reading paper flat on a desk, are not necessarily suitable for reading characters on reflecting, vertical glass

screens, he said, but there was no hard evidence that VDUs harmed eyesight.

But there are many who seriously challenge the evidence - or lack of it - particularly computer terminal operators who maintain that working close to a fluorescent screen, and watching the rapid movements of a cursor, are a major contributor to eye problems.

It may be partly that the operator has to adapt to a different way of working and that eye and backstrain result until the new working pattern is mastered.

Fears that electromagnetic radiation from the VDUs can induce facial dermatitis, appear unfounded. The cause, says the professor, "seems to lie in a combination of electrostatic fields and low humidity (20 per cent in one report)."

"Modern office carpeting, if untreated, may cause an electrostatic charge of several kilovolts to people walking across it. Some VDU screens may develop an electrostatic potential."

"In the absence of good ventilation the resultant electrostatic fields may cause charged particles and air contaminants to be deposited on the face."

It is obvious that not enough is known, but then not enough was known initially about acceptable exposure levels in hospital X-ray departments. Perhaps legislation is the answer - forcing us to err on the cautious side.

Indian wars of the giants

From Matt Miller
 in New Delhi

International companies are battling to supply technology to India's fast-growing computer market.

Attention is now focused on the fight between Control Data of the US and CIL Honeywell-Bull of France to provide technology for Indian-made mainframe computers. In addition, Gould of the US and Norsk Data of Norway are bidding to license technology for Indian-made super-mini-computers.

Several outright sales are also pending. IBM, through its tentative arrangement with India's Primary Petroleum Agency, hopes to sell a computer system valued at up to £20 million and dozens of Indian and foreign companies are setting up ventures to make smaller, less-sophisticated computers.

The technology-transfer contracts could help set standards for India's computer field. As a result, the companies that provide the expertise will be positioned to cash in on an up-and-coming market. The technology-transfer contracts will grant a two-year monopoly on mainframe and super-mini-computer production to an Indian government company. Since most orders are likely to be placed by other government agencies, the arrangement could amount to a sales monopoly.

The first of the contracts will be awarded soon. It is an £8 million technology-transfer package for manufacturing mainframes, 32-bit computers. The competing foreign parties are Control Data and Honeywell-Bull.

After the contract award, the Government-owned Electronics Corporation of India Ltd. (Ecil) will assemble the computers late next year.

Control Data still faces a major hurdle as the US government has yet to approve an export licence for the technology and will depend on whether India will agree to prohibit the computers from use in certain nuclear-related projects.

That could pose a problem. Ecil was originally set up by India's Atomic Energy Commission to produce computers for nuclear-related matters.

Prestel puts itself into profit

By Matthew May

British Telecom's public view-data service, Prestel, is finally trading at a profit on day-to-day operations for the first time in its six-year history.

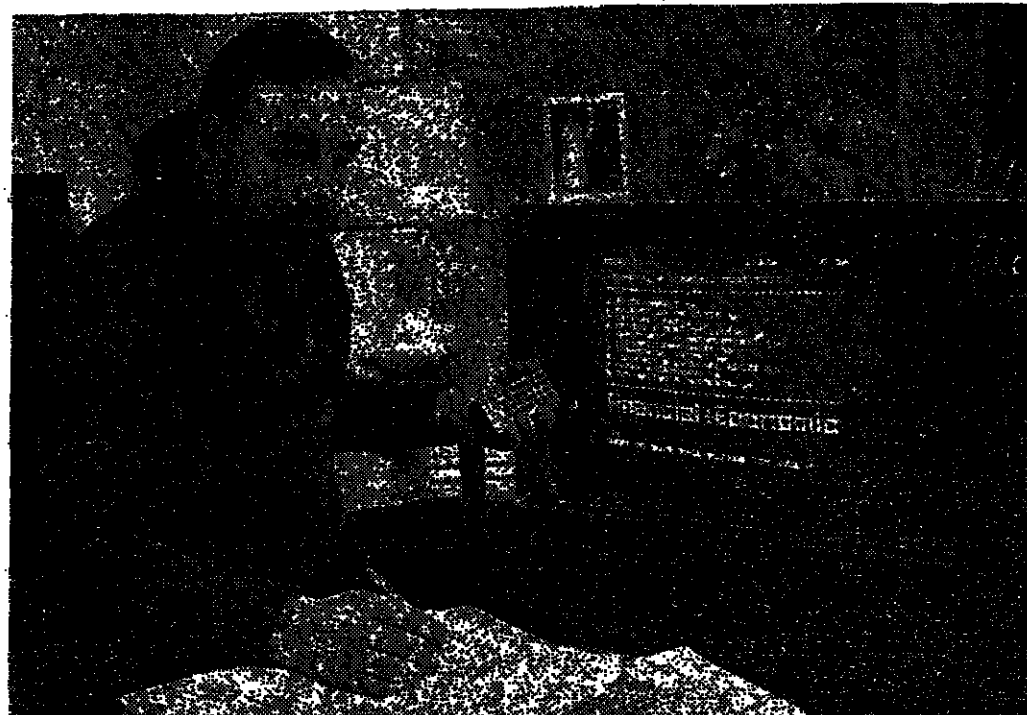
BT will not say how well the service is doing financially but point to a 44 per cent increase in subscriptions over the past year, bringing the number of customers for the service to 62,000, and a cost-cutting exercise that has reduced expenditure by 40 per cent are signs that Prestel's future is now assured.

Prestel, which allows information held on central computers to be accessed through a telephone line and a television set, never became the mass market medium heralded by its originators.

Critics called it a white elephant, a solution looking for a problem to solve. Research and development costs for the system, which was invented in the UK, have been estimated at more than £30 million. Annual losses are believed to have topped £12 million at one stage.

But over the last two years British Telecom has realized, some would argue belatedly, that the high cost of using Prestel would have to be reduced or it would have to target itself to customers that had a directly profitable use for it.

Prestel has effectively done both. Charges for using the system outside business hours were reduced and it has managed to increase the percentage of customers with sets at home to 45 per cent. It is used by microcomputer hobbyists to get computing tips and



The Viewdata system in action in a London home

software while others use it for home banking or ordering products teleshopping.

On the business side Prestel has concentrated on providing services for specific groups, stock-market prices, with City-service, and information for farmers and lawyers. Travel agents, who can use Prestel to check holiday availability and book places, have increased their use of the system by more than seven times in the past year.

As Prestel has attracted wider

interest, so too it has attracted the unwanted interest of hackers, determined to prove that Prestel can be "broken into."

Towards the end of last year they succeeded in an incident that was particularly embarrassing for British Telecom. Internal passwords were obtained after carelessness by its own staff.

With the advent of home-banking, teleshopping and other services on Prestel that involved movement of money, BT could no longer

afford to treat such incidents as childish mischief-making.

British Telecom is still looking for new areas that Prestel could go into and help turn its trading profit into one that could help repay some of its vast initial investment. Recently a service started to sell stocks and shares via a Prestel screen but one of the biggest potential money spinners that Prestel would like to get into, electronic betting on horses, has so far been stopped by legal and political objections.

Cautious French feelers to UK

By Geoff Wheelwright

One of France's biggest home computer companies is set to move into the UK market - but it will not be selling home computers.

Thomson Grand Public, a subsidiary of the Thomson SA organization, which makes the Thomson line of home computers sold in France (including the T07 micro used in many of the country's schools), is moving into Britain with a range of computer display monitors, rather than computers.

The company's decision to concentrate only on the higher-priced computer add-on market, though it has an established and popular European line of micros, is indicative of the cautious nature of the UK microcomputer business.

That Thomson can consider forays into a new international market at a time when others are retreating is a good barometer of the health of the French domestic home-computer market - or at least Thomson's share of it.

The French domestic micro market is considered still a year or two behind the UK and the US. The great home computer slump which seems to have set into the computer business on both sides of the English-speaking Atlantic is so far absent from the Gallic silicon-chip peddling business.

Thomson is not the only French computer company making international waves. SMT, has been attempting to gain a higher profile in London recently with a billboard campaign to promote IBM-compat-

ible Goupil G4 business micro. And one of the ultimate French micro success stories has ironically come from a US company. Apple France last year did so well in selling the company's new Macintosh computer in total contrast to Apple's experience elsewhere in the world that its head man, Jean-Louis Gasse, was offered a top spot in the company's US head office.

But the key to the French success in the UK - and, perhaps more importantly for them, the US - will be on the right marketing and the right pricing. Thomson, for example, will market a range of eight computer monitors - from an inexpensive £85 model for home computers to a £659 professional high resolution display for business computers.

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By Mike Gerrard

Christmas should be an interesting time for both micro makers and buyers alike. The manufacturers usually make use of September's Personal Computer World show to launch their new wonder machines, although this year Amstrad preempted that by bringing out its two attractive new prospects a few weeks earlier, while Acorn adopted a new tactic in launching a machine at the show but not bothering to tell anyone about it.

Mind you, who can blame them when all they have to offer is a new BBC micro (the BBC-D7) whose main feature is 128K of memory, and this coming only a short time after the previous new BBC machine with 64K of memory.

Amstrad seems set to fill Christmas stockings

At £499 and £469 respectively, they can scarcely be considered competitive. Acorn seems to be in some kind of economic time warp.

The multi-purpose Amstrad CPC 6128 also has 128K memory, but with its built-in disc drive, CP/M operating system options and a colour monitor it will still set you back only £399. Buyers with £500 to spend could therefore get themselves an Amstrad, and buy a Spectrum for the kids (or vice versa), for the price of the latest BBC.

Come to that, instead of the Spectrum they could substitute Acorn's last word-beater, the Electron, on offer with cassette recorder and bundled software for under £100.

One problem this year is that no one is really sure where the market is, who is buying, what they want, and what they are prepared to pay for it.

Is the games market saturated? Seemingly not as continuing sales of the Spectrum indicate, and the rumours that Sinclair may be bringing out a 128K version of that machine. Sinclair ought to be bringing out something, with the QL, not having been the success it was

hoped for. Even at the recently halved price of £199, its idiosyncrasies probably still outweigh its undoubted virtues for most potential buyers.

Perhaps Sir Clive Sinclair will have learned from Amstrad's example of making sure your machine is finished before it is launched.

What Alan Sugar, Amstrad's chairman, has done in time for Christmas is to produce another winner for Amstrad: its dedicated word-processing machine, the PCW 8256. Complete with disc-drive, monitor, printer and software, it comes out at £458.85 including VAT.

Catch-all machines seem to be this year's offerings, and as well as the Amstrad, there is the Commodore C128 on which you can play games, write for the Commodore 64 as well as run a vast amount of standard business software - such as Wordstar and Lotus 1-2-3 under CP/M.

So far so good with Amstrad, but Commodore's machine plus the separate disc drive will amount to £468 against the Amstrad 6128's £399, including disc-drive and colour monitor.

If you want only the Amstrad's green screen monitor,

the package is reduced to £299, almost unbelievable pricing, particularly in view of the recent report that Amstrad's return rate for faulty machines is almost negligible.

If you already own a Commodore disk drive and have a monitor/TV, then the C128's price of £269 might persuade you to remain faithful, but for newcomers needing a complete system there's no choice.

Atari is putting its weight behind the 520ST machine, somewhat overshadowing the fact that there are several bargain basement offers in some of its earlier models.

If you are in the bargain basement, however, you will not be in line to spend £749 on the 520ST, even if it is the most impressive machine around under £1,000 with its disk drive, mouse, 800K monitor and 512K of memory.

As with the Commodore and Amstrad, this machine is trying to be all things to all people, but according to anyone who has seen it, the first machine that is genuinely likely to do that as Commodore's eagerly-awaited Amiga. The tag of "all-singing, all-dancing" certainly applies to the Amiga, which appears to be able to do everything bar sprout legs and go break-dancing.

Do not expect one of those in your Christmas stocking, though, as they won't be generally available in the UK until early 1986.

Thoughts on the unthinkable

By David Tebbutt

The idea of a thinking computer upsets many people. When they hear people like Clive Sinclair will one day be outpaced by silicon intelligence, they become truly alarmed.

After all, it is our ability to think so well which has set us apart from the other species on this planet. Understandably, we feel threatened by the idea that computers will one day be able to design and build better versions of themselves, eventually overtaking us in intellectual ability.

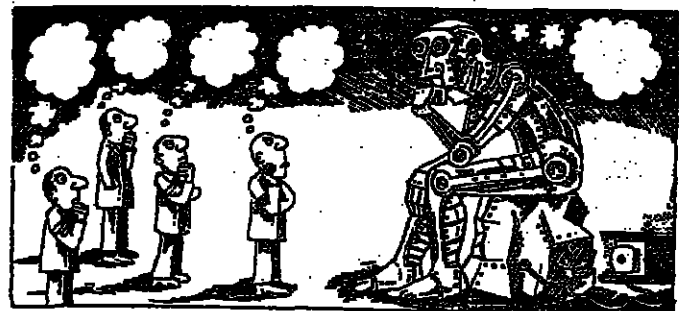
Many well informed people take a different view of the future of the thinking machine. They believe that the human ability to think and reason is largely a result of our life experiences and accumulated knowledge, neither of which can be loaded into a machine because of their sheer volume and complexity. Even once the stuff is loaded, it would be impossible to replicate the brain's way of working with this information.

The assumption is that we need to understand much better how the brain actually works and how it stores knowledge before we can emulate it successfully.

At a physical level, few doubt that machines can be built which match the apparent complexity of the human brain. Some estimates suggest that a brain contains 10,000 million neurons, each of which is connected to a thousand others. We have witnessed huge improvements in the speed and capacity of computing devices over the past 30 years and we still have a good way to go before we reach fundamental physical limitations.

But most forecasters ignore the fact that the brain also contains tens of thousands of different chemicals which also react with each other and affect our thinking. Mind-altering substances bring about obvious changes but even the food we eat subtly alters the chemical makeup of the brain.

Many scientists place the metaphysical aspects of life conveniently to one side when



predicting the likelihood of a machine out-thinking us. The existence of a soul, for example, may mean that humans will always have the edge.

Ignoring such considerations though, no-one can see an absolute barrier which will stop us creating the truly thinking machine. The development is likely to take place as a series of incremental steps, none of which will be particularly earth-shattering.

We have computer programs which can create other computer programs, albeit under human guidance. Expert systems can outperform humans in thin, specialised areas of activity such as the diagnosis of crop diseases. And these products are available, even on today's personal computers.

In order for a machine to think truly, it must not only recognize words, it must understand what they mean. In order to work meaningfully with humans, the machine will also have to interpret speech.

Many computers can recognize most words spoken to them, allowing the user to create a misheard word or phrase. The user has to speak reasonably clearly and avoid the hesitations, splutters and stutters which are part of normal conversation.

But there is no absolute block to progress with speech recognition and, indeed, work is being done on a machine to translate between English and Japanese as it is being spoken.

Ambiguities will probably be resolved by allowing the computer access to a knowledge base for the appropriate context.

"A grey tape" would become "A great ape" for example if the subject were zoology rather than

haberdashery. That would be just the first step towards understanding, as opposed to simple recognition of, the spoken word.

Another obstacle, although it may become less important, is that of vision.

At the moment, computer vision systems are fairly crude. Humans routinely handle colour, movement, changes of scene and perspective. Imagine how much more complex a single glance at a TV screen.

Not only do you see the people and the objects, you capture the mood, the relationships, you may even guess what's about to happen. Present-day computers can just about decipher outlines of objects in a still picture. If ways can be found of loading our computers with all the knowledge and skills necessary to function adequately without giving it eyes then we will do it.

So the perceived barrier of vision may not be a barrier. In the same way that planes have a flight mechanism different from that of birds, and cars have wheels instead of legs, the thinking computer does not have to be modelled on the human brain and senses. It may be that research into speech, vision and the mechanics of the brain is all a giant red herring in terms of creating machine intelligence.

It is teaching us an enormous amount about ourselves but it is not necessarily getting us closer to our stated target.

In many ways the quest for a thinking machine can be likened to getting a man on the moon. The spin-offs could well end up being of far more value than the actual achievement of the original objective.

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COMPUTER APPOINTMENTS 01-837 1350

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SALES AND COMPUTING VACANCIES FOR PROFESSIONALS

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IEL 2900 SERIES 38, VME

Company: Primary organisation currently involved in a number of major development projects. Position: A number of positions are available in the design services group providing database and transactions processing support to applications staff. Analysis/programming element will vary according to experience and the desire to progress.

Experience: The successful candidate should have a minimum of 2 years' experience including analysis and design and must have the ability to test and implement programs. You will have experience in Cobol, Fortran or Pascal and will have worked with IMSL.

General: All candidates will have the opportunity to progress within the organisation and more senior candidates will have major technical and supervisory responsibilities for large projects. A generous relocation package is offered to successful applicants plus the chance to work for an internationally renowned organisation.

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Relocation

REF: TY 12519

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Company: International communications company, one of the biggest in the world. Highly successful in their traditional market place, now equally successful in the provision of total solutions.

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General: Excellent employee benefits, proven products at the forefront of technology and a terrific career opportunity.

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+Car

REF: TA 449

JUNIOR TO SENIOR CONSULTANTS

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - ANY HARDWARE

Company: Leading International Management Consultancy are expanding their service to Banks, Government and Industrial and Commercial enterprises.

Position: Very few Analyst Programmers to Senior Consultants and will be of interest to IT professionals with high level of academic achievement.

Experience: Sound DP experience with good user liaison and analysis skills for junior posts. Senior Consultants must have extensive project management experience in any of the following:

- Banking

- Communications

- Manufacturing

- Financial Systems

General: This is a first-class opportunity to develop your professional abilities in an environment which maintains the highest professional standards. Work assignments will include travel in the UK and overseas. A competitive remuneration package is offered, including company car at senior level.

REF: TM 12443

SENIOR CONSULTANT

Company: International software house associated with a major American telecommunications company involved in implementing real-time communications projects for some of the world's largest industrial, commercial and financial organisations.

Position: To work as Senior Consultant in charge of small team implementing database designs.

Experience: Must have 4 years' plus experience within the UK market place and good knowledge of database designs. Commence experience an advantage. Management experience not essential, as extensive training programmes are available.

General: This is an excellent opportunity for someone to work for a dynamic company at the forefront of systems development using the latest tools and techniques. There will also be opportunities to travel, particularly to the USA. REF: TF 522

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Company: One of the market leaders in the field of sophisticated CAD/CAM. Their systems vary from small micro driven to large mainframe driven. This company is well established and highly successful in the UK and internationally.

Position: An opportunity to join an exciting and dynamic company selling into specific vertical markets or possibly the whole range of available systems.

Experience: You must have CAD/CAM experience, an engineering or computing background with a minimum 2 years' in sales.

General: Terrific opportunities for dynamic individuals who thrive in a high pressure environment. Excellent employee benefits. Realistic and achievable targets and an attractive salary package.

Various Areas, OTE £35k+

Cavalier SR1

REF: TA 402

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IBM 4380 - SYSTEM 38

Company: On services company dealing with the financial and accounting applications of a prestigious multinational group.

Position: Analyst-Programmer initially working on financial systems for IBM 4380 mainframe. For successful candidate there will be rapid promotion to Project Leader and a key role in a new system 38 installation and future systems development. RPS II training will be given.

Experience: You need three years' COBOL experience with strong analysis skills. The ability to work under pressure and adhere to strict deadlines will be vital along with the desire to be part of a dynamic and progressive team.

General: A terrific opportunity for an ambitious professional to move up the ladder while continuing to build on existing skills.

REF: TG 506

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6th Floor, Empire House, 175 Piccadilly, London W1Z 9DB Telephone: 01-409 2844, 01-439 8302 (24 hours).

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CENTRAL LONDON

10K+

Required by the leading US organizer of computer-related exhibitions and conferences. The successful candidate will be responsible for the organization of the new London sales office and assisting in the sales and marketing activities of the company.

A good general knowledge of the computer industry is essential as is the ability to operate WP and simple micro-computer operations.

Energy, initiative and a willingness to travel outside the UK when required are other prerequisites.

Please write immediately with career details to: UK Sales Director, The Business Group Inc., 35 Piccadilly, London W1V 9PB. Written applications only.

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Richmond based 1st years income £20,000 - car

With the increasing shortage of skilled computer staff the professional recruiter is becoming of even greater importance to the Data Processing Industry. KPG is one of the largest established and most highly respected companies in the specialist recruitment field.

We are currently looking for experienced Recruitment Consultants to take advantage of what is a very rare opportunity indeed - the chance to develop and manage an expanding vertical market.

Successful applicants will be intelligent and articulate and possess a positive personality with a high level of personal motivation. Above all they must be ambitious for success.

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If you can rise to the challenge of working for one of the industry leaders, in a high growth area, then please telephone David Mason Jones for a confidential discussion on 01-848 5922 or 01-891 0906 (evening & weekends).



Alternatively write, enclosing a comprehensive C.V. to: KPG Computer Support Services Limited, Cobden House, Park Lane, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1BR.

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Starting salaries will reflect qualifications and depth of relevant experience

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For further information and an application form, please write to, or telephone: Mrs. Karen Wallden, Personnel Officer, Room A121, British Nuclear Fuels plc, FREEPOST, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 1BR. Tel: Padgate (0925) 832000 Ext. 2435 or 2068.

Please quote reference 0606.

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Ref: TB 12222

PROGRAMMER
ICL 2900 COBOL

CITY

TO £12,000
+ SUB MORT AND BONUS

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Ref: TM 12514

UNIX/LAN SPECIALIST

CITY

TO £20,000

A highly motivated and productive person who has experience of UNIX, C and 8086 ASSEMBLER is required by this international company. Preference will be given to applicants who have any or all of the following: a detailed understanding of MS-DOS, an all-round knowledge of LAN products, practical experience of Ethernet, expert knowledge of ISO networking standards, the analysis, design and implementation of real-time systems and have undertaken a major project using C. Although based in London, there will be some travel to the USA and duties will include high level liaison with Senior Management, Client and Suppliers and the research and assessment of LAN products. Candidates who have the above experience and possess a related degree can expect to be offered an excellent salary and the opportunity to work for a major company at the forefront of the industry.

Ref: TGH 12444

TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS

CITY

TO £25K + CAR

This leading international professional consulting and accounting firm, currently has excellent career prospects for Management Consultants experienced in Communications. Involved in a vast range of areas, clients commercial enterprises. Successful applicants will be mainly working alone on assignments with a minimum of supervision. You will be involved in fact finding, analysing and making recommendations, the management of time to budget and the development of technical support as required. Assignments range from two days in duration to two years. Candidates should have skills in any of the following: Data Networking, Communications Architecture, Telex Switching, Communications Standards, PABX and Office Systems, with previous experience in a technical role for a large user, or a major computer or communications supplier. A degree, business awareness and good interpersonal skills are rewarded with an excellent salary, generous benefits, company car and the opportunity to gain recognition and advancement based on results.

Ref: TM 11416

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TECHNICIANS

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Ref: TM 12552



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HAY-MSL produces the country's most authoritative surveys on pay and benefits. We have a major programme under way for the enhancement of our database to improve the service we provide for our clients.

In organising ourselves to meet these objectives, we have identified the need to appoint a Data Resourcing Manager. Hays will have a challenging brief developing cost-effective methods of collecting and feeding back data by electronic means. Success is critical to our plans and the successful applicant will have a new key role in the Remuneration Information Centre, working with clients and consultants to understand the ways in which organisations hold and can transfer data, and developing the methods by which we can receive it. He/she will act as a link with external agencies used for data entry and will be responsible for in-house services.

The successful applicant will have 5-7 years' line management experience using computer technology in a commercial environment where data and its organisation are significant aspects of the business. Salary will be negotiable but it is unlikely that the successful candidate will currently be earning less than £13,500.

Please write with full C.V. including current salary, or telephone for an application form: Sarah Patterson, HAY-MSL Management Consultants Group Limited, 52 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0AU. Tel: 01-730 0833 ext. 371.

Closing date applications - Monday 18 November.

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01-278 0668

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

COMMERCIAL
LAWYER

Harbottle and Lewis are seeking a solicitor to undertake a varied mixture of company and commercial matters, many of which will be for clients in the leisure and entertainment industries.

You should have been qualified for up to one year, have some previous experience of commercial work and enjoy dealing with commercial clients.

Please write with full CV to C M Howes

HARBOTTLE & LEWIS
34 SOUTH MOLTON STREET,
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Applications are invited from experienced and enthusiastic Legal Executives, with drive and initiative, for the Legal Department serving the Bovis Housing Division, South East Region, at their office, in New Ash Green, Kent.

The successful applicant will have responsibility for major acquisitions, commercial lettings and estate development. The salary will reflect the importance of the post and will include a company car. Excellent terms of employment are offered.

Applications marked 'Confidential' giving full c.v. should be made to:

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A member of ICI Group

A. J. Bickle, Legal Manager,
Bovis Homes Limited,
South East Region,
The Manor House,
North Ash Road,
New Ash Green,
New Ash Green,
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Required by charitable company operating in Earls Court.

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The salary range is the Local Authority PO2 scale: £13,088 - £14,133 incl.

For a job description and an application form please write to Andrew Maynard, Earls Court Centre, 282, Earls Court Road, London SW5.

Closing date for applications 30th November 1985.

This is a re-advertisement and previous candidates need not re-apply.

COMMUNITY LAW SERVICES
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MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL
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Scales 4/5-£6,900 to £8,697 p.a.

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Temporary housing accommodation may be provided in suitable cases. Assistance towards removal expenses, legal fees etc. (maximum £1,000) may be available to officers recruited from outside the district council area. Please write or telephone for an application form and job description to:

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Mid Devon District Council

7 St Peter Street, Tiverton

Devon, EX16 8NU

Telephone: Tiverton (0884) 255255-Ext. 216

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS
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We have a growing commercial practice and need a Solicitor with good commercial or property experience to work in and to help to develop it. Ideally admitted one year but newly qualified Solicitor with relevant articles considered. Good salary and career prospects.

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Please write with a detailed curriculum vitae to: D. R. Childs.

Coward Chance

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We wish to recruit an ambitious Solicitor with 2-5 years post qualified experience to work in our expanding Property Litigation Department. Previous experience in general property litigation is desirable. The position offers very good prospects and a generous salary commensurate with ability and experience.

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Kempson House, Camomile Street,
London EC3A 7AN

Norton, Rose, Botterell & Roche

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

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c.£27,000 + car

A British independent oil company is looking for a young barrister or solicitor to join a small legal team.

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The company has interests in a number of countries worldwide and the successful candidate should be prepared to travel abroad from time to time.

Please send personal details to

Michael Chambers, Chambers & Partners, (Rec. Cnsls),
74 Long Lane, London EC1,
or telephone him on 606 9371.

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ARTICLED CLERK. Please write to: London City Solicitors. 01-606 9371.

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You will be pleasantly surprised by the terms of employment, the company and the opportunity to play an important role in our future.

In the first instance, please write to Patrick Phillips, our Administration Partner, with brief details of your career to date.

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Lovell, White & King

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RECRUITMENT

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We wish to recruit solicitors, qualified for about two to three years with good City experience, for international banking and general financial work, with a particular emphasis on loan, lease and other financing for ships, aircraft and other assets and general corporate and contractual matters relating to the shipping, aviation and oil and gas exploration industries.

Applicants should have a good academic record and the necessary enthusiasm and personality to handle a demanding workload. A generous salary will be paid to reflect age and experience.

Please apply with curriculum vitae to: Geoffrey Williams, Watson, Farley & Williams Navigation House, One Aldgate, London EC3N 1AA Tel: 01-481 1000.

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Two solicitors. One should have two to four years broad experience of contentious work and the ability to deal (unsupervised and/or as one of a team) with a large volume of varied and high quality work.

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Solicitors (perhaps one or two years qualified) with enthusiasm and energy to develop their expertise and experience in this field.

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Applications should be sent in confidence to:

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(ASC 227)

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(Ref CES)

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(Ref C86)

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Due to the promotion of existing staff to senior posts with other authorities, the following vacancies have arisen for solicitors who have the ability and the experience to play a significant part in the work of the Legal Division:-

Senior Assistant Solicitor - The duties of this post will include responsibility for the legal staff dealing with compulsory purchase orders, highway closures and a variety of planning matters, including enforcement action, planning appeals, tree preservation orders, etc. The postholder will also be expected to advise members and officers on a wide variety of matters relating to the work of the Council's Housing Committee. The work is varied and interesting and should suit someone who has at least three years admitted experience and a knowledge of planning and housing law, and is keen to develop a career in local government law and administration.

Assistant Solicitors - The duties of these posts will include representing the Council in the Magistrates' and County Courts and at public inquiries, attending and advising one or more of the Council's Committees, and advising on a wide range of legal matters, including those arising from the Council's involvement with the North East London Polytechnic.

Applications from candidates wishing to job share will be considered.

For further information and application forms write to the Chief Executive, Town Hall, East Ham, London E6 2RP, or telephone 01-471 0619 (24hr answering service) quoting the appropriate reference. Closing date: 21st November 1985.

London Borough of Newham

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Career Opportunities
for
Young Lawyers

Wragge & Co. invite applications from young Solicitors who would like a career with a major provincial firm.

The firm has numerous national and international commercial clients and continues to expand. We are currently 180 strong and we have a prime office location in the centre of Birmingham.

We are looking for ambitious young Solicitors with commercial good sense to join our Company. Commercial and Property Departments. If you are looking for a move, then this could just be the opportunity for you.

We are prepared to pay a salary that will fully reflect your experience. If you would like to arrange a meeting then please write to:

C.W. Hughes, Wragge & Co., Bank House, 8, Cherry Street, Birmingham B2 5JY enclosing full details of your career and your current salary.

WRAGGE & CO.

County Secretary and Solicitors Department

Assistant Solicitor
Grade PO 1-2 (£11,604 - £14,025 per annum)

The main duties of this post are the giving of legal advice and representing the County Council in Court and before other bodies. The work will involve, at least initially, an appreciable amount of child care law, and some knowledge and experience of this would be an advantage.

Application form and other information can be obtained from Miss J. Harris (Telephone Worcester 353366 ext 2210). Completed application forms to be returned to Mr J. W. Ranney, County Secretary and Solicitor, County Hall, Speckley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP, to arrive not later than 18th November 1985.

Hereford and Worcester
County Council

Letter from Sydney

Hitting a low note at the opera

His comments came after criticism of industry last week by Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, who said the Government would not rescue firms if their wages costs were too high.

Miss Redgrave was launching a £250,000 appeal to the labour and trade union movement to repel Mr Banda's attack which has produced two versions of the party amid

A spokesman for the Banda faction last night said that the WRP had no plan to provide evidence to substantiate its claims against Mr Healy by

Included in the group's future problems, according to Mr Maxwell's accounts to the unions yesterday, was the

However, if agreement could be reached on the shedding of 2,000 jobs, generous redundancy terms, well in excess of the statutory requirements, would be available.

On that, under the defense that we had for a few years, during which we signed the Salt-1 and the Salt-2 treaties, the Soviet Union added over 7,000 warheads to its arsenal. And we have fewer than we had in

The real trouble started when the management started considering how to deal with the crisis. Faced with options ranging from total closure to reducing spending and increasing ticket prices, the

Stephen Taylor

daily paper by Mr. Eddy Shah.

Mr Maxwell's letter, giving formal notice to all 6,000 staff, said that they would be entitled to one week's pay if they had worked for company for less than two years. For those with

more than two years' service there would be one week's pay for each year, up to a maximum of 12 years.

However, if agreement could be reached on the shedding of 2,000 jobs, generous redun-

Maxwell seeks cash, page 21

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. **FRONTS** are marked with the following symbols:

High tides

TODAY

	AM	HT	PM	NT
London Bridge	5.48	6.0	6.57	5.6
Aberdeen	5.08	5.5	6.57	5.6
Avonmouth	5.08	5.5	6.57	5.6
Taft	5.28	5.7	6.57	5.6
Cardiff	5.07	5.5	6.57	5.6
Devonport	5.07	5.5	6.57	5.6
Dover	5.24	5.8	6.57	5.6
Falmouth	5.24	5.8	6.57	5.6
Glasgow	5.47	5.9	6.57	5.6
Harwich	5.47	5.9	6.57	5.6
Holyhead	5.28	5.8	6.57	5.6
Newcastle	5.28	5.8	6.57	5.6
Stranraer	5.08	5.5	6.57	5.6
Liverpool	5.08	5.5	6.57	5.6
Lowestoft	5.08	5.5	6.57	5.6
Wexford	5.08	5.5	6.57	5.6
Millard Haven	5.07	5.5	6.57	5.6
Harveju	5.24	5.8	6.57	5.6
Osk	5.24	5.8	6.57	5.6
Penzance	5.24	5.8	6.57	5.6
Portland	5.24	5.8	6.57	5.6
Portsmouth	5.24	5.8	6.57	5.6
Sherborn	5.24	5.8	6.57	5.6
Portland	5.24	5.8	6.57	5.6
Southampton	5.24	5.8	6.57	5.6
Swansea	5.24	5.8	6.57	5.6
Tote	5.24	5.8	6.57	5.6
Wexford	5.24	5.8	6.57	5.6

Time measurement is metric: 1m=3.28ft.

Around Britain

	Sun Rise	Max	Sun Set	Max
East Coast	7.1	58	4.1	58
London	7.1	58	4.1	58
Wexford	7.1	58	4.1	58
Cardiff	7.1	58	4.1	58
Devonport	7.1	58	4.1	58
Dover	7.1	58	4.1	58
Falmouth	7.1	58	4.1	58
Glasgow	7.1	58	4.1	58
Harwich	7.1	58	4.1	58
Holyhead	7.1	58	4.1	58
Newcastle	7.1	58	4.1	58
Stranraer	7.1	58	4.1	58
Liverpool	7.1	58	4.1	58
Lowestoft	7.1	58	4.1	58
Wexford	7.1	58	4.1	58
Millard Haven	7.1	58	4.1	58
Harveju	7.1	58	4.1	58
Osk	7.1	58	4.1	58
Penzance	7.1	58	4.1	58
Portland	7.1	58	4.1	58
Portsmouth	7.1	58	4.1	58
Sherborn	7.1	58	4.1	58
Portland	7.1	58	4.1	58
Southampton	7.1	58	4.1	58
Swansea	7.1	58	4.1	58
Tote	7.1	58	4.1	58
Wexford	7.1	58	4.1	58

[illegible][illegible]

*denotes Sunday's figures are final available

...and the fact that the *Journal of Management* is the only journal in the field to have been ranked in the top 10 of the Social Sciences Citation Index for 10 years in a row.

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

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3

...and the